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Honors System Shaken Up

By **B. Kim, III**
Assistant News Editor

The recent changes in the BostonLatin School curriculum have stirred up vehement discourse among the students, especially in the Class of 2012.

The piece of the new curriculum creating the most controversy is the elimination of all honors classes. There will be rigorous alternatives to Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus and Latin 4, but they will no longer be “honors” classes. A.P. classes will continue to have a 1.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) bump, but no other classes will carry any additional weight.

Students are worried that losing the 0.5 bump from the honors classes will lower their GPAs substantially. While the numbers may be slightly lower, however, the administration says, “The loss of the honors level courses and the correlating loss of honors weight in calculating GPAs do not change the relative position of individual students.”

The new policy will not affect the students of the 2010 and 2011 class, but this year’s sophomore class will feel the

full effect of the changes. 220 students in Class III were polled regarding their opinions on the curriculum changes. Of the students polled, 59 percent disagree with the proposed curriculum changes and 23 percent of students polled strongly disagree.

Another question evaluated the students’ feelings on how informed they have been on curriculum changes with 54 percent of students saying they disagreed with the statement, “I feel well-informed about the decision on curriculum changes.”

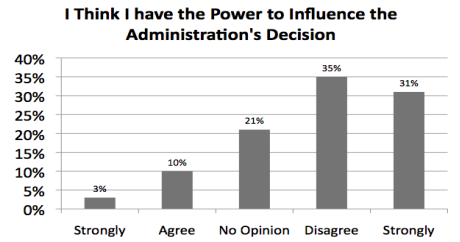
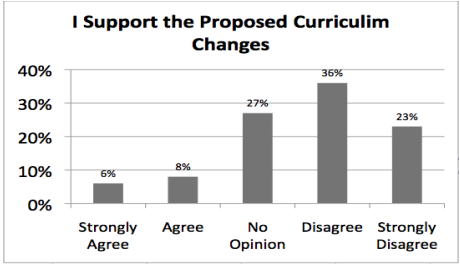
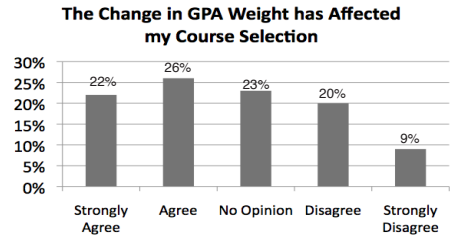
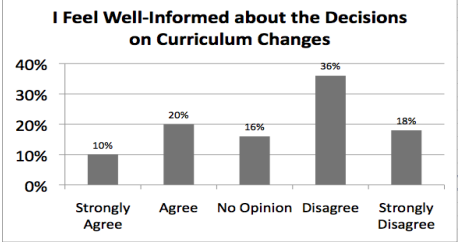
“I’d really be interested in ideas from students, as to how we can communicate better,” said Head Master Lynne Mooney Teta. “I’m open to exploring ways to improve that communication, because I think we can improve it.”

Although nothing has been submitted to the administration at this time, there have been petitions going around with hundreds of signatures from students and parents opposing the new curriculum changes. Though the majority of these students oppose the revisions to the curriculum changes, there are some who support them strongly. “The whole point

of high school is to diversify,” stated Isaac Buck (III), “The problem is not cutting honors. The real problem is the quality of the teacher and with the current policy, there’s a huge inconsistency because teachers are able to teach whatever they want.”

There have also been significant inconsistencies with the honors program in the past. According to Head Master Mooney Teta, “Bio II, Chem II, and Physics II have been designated as honors but they weren’t honors to anything else, yet students who took them received a weight in their GPA.” The same was true of the fourth and fifth year modern language.

Mooney Teta hopes the changes will improve education at BLS, but many students still oppose the new curriculum.



Scandal on the Ski Trip

By **MAYA JONAS-SILVER, I**
News Editor

The following report was substantiated to the best of the Argo’s ability. The administration declined to comment, so all information is from students present at the events described.

In the middle of R4 last Friday, March 26, an administrator’s voice came over the intercom across the school, calling all 44 students scheduled to go to a ski trip to meet in the Electronic Classroom. It was organized by a Boston Latin School teacher. The group had planned to leave after R5 and take a bus to a ski resort in Vermont.

Students planning to go on the trip reported to the Argo that at the beginning of the day, they dropped their bags off in a storage room in the basement. The bags remained in that room until R4, when students filed down to the Electronic Classroom. Members of the administration informed the students that they knew there was alcohol in some bags, and

encouraged the students to confess to possession of alcohol. The students were informed that they might “earn some points later on” if they did, according to a student present.

Reports from students present say that 15 students confessed. The administration separated those who confessed from those who had not, and brought students that had not confessed to the computer classroom in 014, five at a time. Administrators brought the bags from the storage room and searched them one by one. Students present did not believe anyone else was caught with any banned substances except for those who had confessed. The rest of the students were allowed to take their luggage and board the bus after R5 to begin the trip as scheduled.

After about forty-five minutes, according to people on the bus, they were called back to school. The bus turned around and arrived back at school at the end of R7. They were told that the trip was canceled.

During the day, rumors flew around

the school. “It was like the vampires last year, everyone was talking about it,” said Lucy Burke (III). The most ridiculous rumor reported to the Argo was that 35 students had been expelled and 7 people were arrested—this has since been confirmed as untrue. There were also multiple rumors that students were caught with marijuana.

Based on reports from students planning to go on the trip, the numbers are far less extreme. According to a few who were suspended, those caught with alcohol were suspended for Monday, March 29, and their discipline hearings were scheduled for Tuesday, March 30. They said that 15 students in total received these hearings and that as of that time, no one had received expulsion hearings.

All 44 students lost the \$260 they had paid in advance for the trip. This covered transportation, meals, accommodations and lift tickets. Some had also paid another \$30 for ski or snowboard rentals.

The administration had no comment.

Global News Tidbits

>> Ilenia Noretta, a 19-year-old from Luzzara, Italy, hired a hitman to assassinate her father, Rodolfo, using the \$6,756 he had given to her for a trip to America. The hitman, however, proceeded to give a confession to the police about the scheme after taking the money, which then led to a re-examination of a previous attempt on Rodolfo’s life. It was then

discovered that Noretta was behind the first attack, recruiting an accomplice who managed to stab her father in the back before being restrained by the latter. An investigator on the case states that Noretta wanted “to bring to an end years of intimidation” she and her mother had suffered while living with Rodolfo. Apparently, the mother had also given Noretta her consent. (Reuters)

>> A 67-year-old woman from Brussels, Belgium committed suicide last Monday by leaping off the balcony of her 12th floor apartment. Unfortunately, in the process of doing so, she killed a 72-year-old man entering the apartment on the street below. According to reports, the woman had suffered depression for three years after the death of her husband. (AP)

>> A teenager from Salt Lake City, Utah, who had entered a convenience

store with the intention of robbing it, fled the scene when his plan failed. The boy had carried a kitchen knife into the store with him, attempting to hold it to the clerk’s neck as his items were rung up. The clerk, however, managed to knock the boy to the floor, who then proceeded to plead with him, and leave the store without the knife. The teenager was quoted to have said: “Don’t call the cops, I will pay. Don’t tell my mom.” (UPI)

NEWS

Editor's Note

Dear BLS Peeps,
Will here. So, Andy Vo said he'd write this, then decided not to. I told him he was the worst writer ever, and he proceeded to die. RIP Andy Vo.
Aaaanyways... I have a confession to make. Remember last issue when I declared, with trumpets blaring and heaven's gates opening, that the Argo had finished on Friday? Well... it didn't. Sorry. Duly apologized for. ...Yeah.
In any case, I wouldn't mention this at all, except that we DID finish on Friday this week. The magnitude and awesomeness of this event cannot be exaggerated, and if I may say so, I'm absolutely amazing at hyperbole. As Mr. Flynn said (direct quote) "The last time the Argo finished on

a final friday... oh my gosh... I do, I have to think a lot about it..." He proceeded to glance introspectively upward for about five minutes. "Let's say it was the first year of the millenium. 2001."
So there you have it, folks. The 9-year curse (with 10% of the intensity of the Red Sox curse) has finally been lifted. Expect to wake up tomorrow to a land of milk and honey, where exaltation abounds and Argo editors actually have time on weekends. Just think of all the things we'll have time to do! Like start on the NEXT Argo! (Ok, we're not that lame. Well, Andy Vo is, but still.)
Finally, on top of all this tooting of our own horns, we should mention that there are some pretty awesome things

in this issue, as well. We debunk gossip, diss curling, and poll the class of 2012... and it didn't even cause the world to end. So thanks to everyone who made this possible, and our wonderful readers. Read on!

With bookoo happiness,
Will Poff-Webster
Editor-in-Chief

Andy Vo
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

PS: Andy didn't actually die. To paraphrase the Lord of the Rings, "Master dwarf, I would cut off your head if it were just a bit farther from the ground."

Healthcare Reform into Law

BY WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The healthcare reform bill was signed on Tuesday, March 23. Officially known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the centerpiece of President Obama's agenda passed the House of Representatives last Monday, overcoming its last obstacle before being signed into law. The changes to healthcare promise to rewrite the landscape for all Americans, whether they currently possess health insurance or not, and particularly impact young Americans.

While the Act is long and complicated-- it totals roughly 300,000 words, half the length of War and Peace-- its effects can be broken down into several major provisions. Previously, health insurance companies could refuse to pay for the health costs of its customers if they could argue that the customer had a "preexisting condition" before they applied for health insurance; this practice is banned in the bill. Previously, children could only remain on their parents' insurance plan until they were 18, and beyond that age only if they were attending school. Now, they can stay on their parents' plans until the age of 26, even if they are not attending school, which opens up opportunities for young people to take time off from college to pursue employment without losing their health coverage.

These provisions will take effect immediately, while some elements will not become law until 2014. All Americans will then be required to purchase health insurance, with subsidies for those who cannot afford it. In addition, businesses with more than 50 workers must provide health insurance.

Despite many high-profile attempts at healthcare reform, the last major legislation took place during the administration of Lyndon B. Johnson. He, along with a Democratic Congress, created Medicare and Medicaid, the government healthcare programs for senior citizens and the poor,



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SIGNS LANDMARK HEALTH LEGISLATION

respectively, in the 1960s. The past four decades, however, have seen little change in the laws regulating healthcare providers and insurers in the United States. The late Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, who called universal healthcare "the cause of my life," introduced a bill for nationalized healthcare, and President Bill Clinton led a massive effort for reform at the beginning of his term in 1992. Both were defeated by Republican opposition to expanding government's role in healthcare.
This opposition has been just as hostile during the latest fight over healthcare in 2009 and 2010. Republican lawmakers argue that, while reform such as allowing consumers to buy healthcare across state lines is necessary, an expanded government presence in the health insurance sector is not. Republicans are skeptical that the bill will reduce the deficit and argue that adding 32 million people to the health insurance rolls--the cost of insuring every American--would create skyrocketing costs and cause healthcare to be rationed as services come under strain. Recently elected Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown called it a "multi-trillion dollar healthcare bill that will raise taxes, increase premiums, cut Medicare and leave future generations with a mountain of debt."
The Congressional Budget Office, Washington's unbiased scorekeeper, has stated that the bill will reduce the deficit

by 143 billion dollars. The bill includes several measures to bring down costs, including cutting Medicare fraud and instituting a tax on high-cost health insurance policies (over 10,500 dollars for individuals and 27,500 dollars for families), that will take effect in 2014. Democrats have also put forth the idea that the U.S. is morally obligated to provide healthcare to all its citizens. "Because of this bill, peoples' lives are going to be demonstrably, undeniably better. Finally, we will have a healthcare system that puts people ahead of profits," said Senator John Kerry.
The partisanship of the healthcare debate was clearly shown through the vote to pass the bill in the House. It voted 219-212 to approve the bill that the Senate passed earlier in the year, with every Republican and 34 Democrats voting against the bill. To bypass a filibuster in the senate, made possible by Scott Brown taking his place as the 41st Republican Senator, the House passed an earlier Senate version of healthcare reform that was approved before Brown took office. While some House Democrats were critical of the Senate version, they decided to push ahead anyway; Representative Mike Capuano, Democrat of Somerville, said, "Although I am not happy with every aspect of this bill, I have come to the conclusion that the benefits for Massachusetts and the country outweigh the problems."

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NEWS

Is It Raining... Inside?

CARLOS ROJAS, III
STAFF WRITER

With the tranquil weather that preceded the weekend of March 12, most people were blindly unaware of the powerful nor'easter heading straight for the city. When it finally hit Massachusetts, it hit with full torque. By the end of the weekend, thousands of households across the state had reported flooded basements, heavy leaking and power outages, along with many other storm-related problems.

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) was forced to release approximately 15 million gallons of untreated wastewater into the Quincy Bay in a desperate attempt to keep the sewage from backing up into homes and flooding sewage treatment facilities. This is the first time since 2005 the MWRA has had to release untreated waste into the bay.

Transit delays were among the worst the Hub has experienced this year. Stations flooded and a massive sinkhole opened up under the train tracks of the Green Line between Chestnut Hill and Newton Center, leaving MBTA operators unable to transport passengers via train

and forcing commuters to confusing and time-consuming alternate routes via bus.

The Monday after the storm subsided, students arrived at Boston Latin School. From the outside, it looked quite the same as it had looked the previous week. Once inside, however, they encountered flaking and soaked ceilings, peeling walls saturated with water, a stairwell turned into a slippery slope and leaky and damaged windows. The leaks

shift chutes to divert water that was flooding several lockers in the cross corridor of the third floor. Teachers most affected by the storm were Mr. Scott Balicki in room 318 and Mr. Aaron Osowiecki in room 312. In addition to having his basement at home flooded, the walls and posters in Mr. Balicki's room were destroyed. According to Mrs. Kathleen Bateman, head of the math and science departments, the paint in Mr. Osowiecki's room "just slivered off the wall."

Water which remained within the walls on the third floor trickled down to the first floor, reaching the Main Office, where it was deposited in several places. Head Master Mooney Teta told the *Argo*, "I was talking to Ms. Lewis Da Ponte in my office when I paused and asked her, 'Ms. Lewis, does it sound like it's raining...inside?'" Water had slipped through the lintels of the windows, forcing Ms. Mooney Teta to move everything in her office out of the rain and to conduct her work around the school.

The stairwell at the front of the school, connecting the third floor outside of 312 with the art wing as well as the second floor, was blocked off forcing students to use a different stairwell. With the exception of a few students being

tardy to class, the flooded stairwell did not pose a threat to students and did not cause much inconvenience.

The school, an imposing structure of brick and limestone that would appear fit to stand against the strongest of hurricanes, obviously saw a substantial amount of damage. According to Mr. Malcolm Flynn, the leaks did not come from the roofs themselves, but from the brick walls of the building. Because most of the building's exterior is many decades old, it has been gradually weakened and eroded during its many years of subjection to the elements. Water can be easily absorbed through the mortar and eventually finds its way into the walls and ceilings of the school. The process of replacing the damaged mortar with new, stronger mortar, a process known as re-pointing, is costly (now at \$30 to \$35 a square foot). Despite the financial setbacks of the Boston Public Schools has faced this year, Boston Latin will undergo a 6 month, \$1 million renovation starting in June in hopes of making the school weather-proof.

"The school has been porous for quite some time. The first time it rained since the library was opened, for example, we had water leaking in the reading room. Not to say something was done wrong, but something wasn't done right," notes Mr. Flynn, who is hopeful that this summer's renovation will fix the structural problems the school has faced for years.



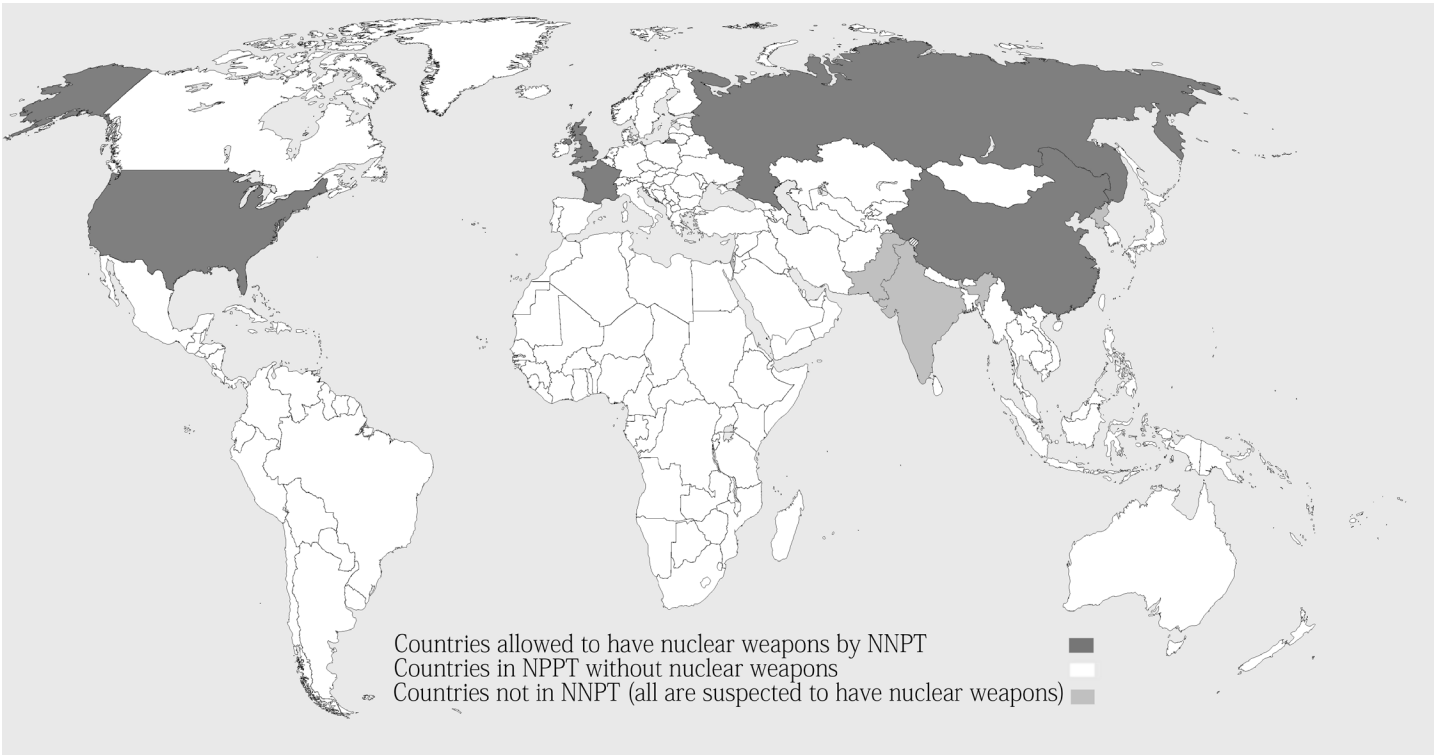
A TEWKESBURY MAN AND HIS SON CANOE THROUGH THE FLOOD

were most destructive on the third floor, where measures had to be taken to stop and repair damage in four or five locations. Water had to be redirected, deflected and prevented from flooding classrooms, a girls' bathroom, a teachers' room, lockers and hallways. Members of the Senior Class were called into action to construct make-

Growing Threats of a Nuclear World

BY LUCY BURKE, III
STAFF WRITER

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) was signed in 1970 to curb the expansion of nuclear armed countries across the world. The treaty singles out the five ratifiers who had nuclear arsenals prior to the treaty: United States of America, Russia, United Kingdom, France and China. It states that none of those five nations will transfer nuclear weapons or help other countries in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons. For non-nuclear countries participating in the treaty, it specifies that they cannot receive or manufacture them. The treaty also expresses the desire to eventually halt the production of the weapons and disarm all arsenals. Certain nations argue about the meaning of that section though, and some nations condemn the five nuclear powers for not taking further steps to disarm themselves. The treaty also allows for the use of peaceful nuclear energy among its signers.



Despite the NNPT, the five armed nations who signed it continue to argue over its meaning and to break the treaty. The United States broke the treaty in 2008 by creating a deal with India that involves trading nuclear technology. More recently, Russia and the United States have argued over Russia's involvement in Iran's nuclear program. Recent discussions, however, have been more hopeful. President Obama and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev agreed to sign a treaty in Prague next month, which would promise to reduce their arsenals by more than 25 percent.

A few countries, however, have been more ambiguous about their nuclear aspirations. South Africa had a nuclear arsenal in the 1980s, but it was dismantled ten years later. India and Pakistan are known to have nuclear arsenals, as is Israel. All three have failed to sign the NNPT, and the extent of their nuclear prowess is unknown. In Israel's case, the details of their nuclear programs were revealed to the British Press by an Israeli nuclear technician in 1986, although to

date, Israel refuses to say whether or not it possesses them. Matters were complicated when, in 1996, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to establish the Middle East as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. This created unrest among Middle Eastern nations because it was fairly certain that Israel was already possessing nuclear weapons. Consequently, the members of the Arab League, including Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, have threatened to withdraw from the NNPT if Israel ever admits to having nuclear weapons.

The nuclear waters get even murkier when it comes to North Korea and Iran. North Korea has stated that it has nuclear weapons, a claim supported by the earthquakes felt during their weapons' supposed testing. North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003. Iran, however, has not reached the testing stage of their research yet, and they maintain for the most part that their research is for energy purposes. When the international community was informed of Iran's construction of a

uranium enrichment plant seven years ago, many countries were outraged. The United States has since threatened more sanctions unless Iran dismantles its nuclear program. Many countries in the Middle East, however, have expressed anger over the fact that the United States is calling for the closure of the Iranian nuclear program when the United States itself holds more than half the nuclear weapons in the world. There are also countries that have pointed out that a nuclear program built by an unstable and corrupt government is an undesirable situation.

There is also an important distinction to make between nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. The NNPT allows countries the ability to use nuclear technology for energy purposes. The dilemma this causes is that the creation of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy look exactly the same until their final stages. This makes it nearly impossible to distinguish between a country that is building a weapon and one that desires a new source of energy.

1995

The most recent renewal of the NNPT occurs.

1964

France and China developed their first nuclear weapons.

1953

England begins to develop nuclear weapons.

1945

The United States tests the first nuclear weapons in Socorro, New Mexico.

2003

North Korea withdraws from the NNPT.

1949

Russia (at the time, the Soviet Union) develops its first nuclear weapons.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Processors: The Brains of Your Computer

BY **KERRY HU, II**
STAFF WRITER

Planning to buy a new computer soon? It can be difficult to choose the perfect machine, especially when companies seem to try their best to confuse mainstream consumers. Nothing says “we want you to buy this” more than glimmering price tags and huge discounts. However, sellers often neglect to explain the product’s complex hardware specifications, leaving bewildered customers to wonder whether computer companies have gone nuts trying to come up with confusing names for their products.

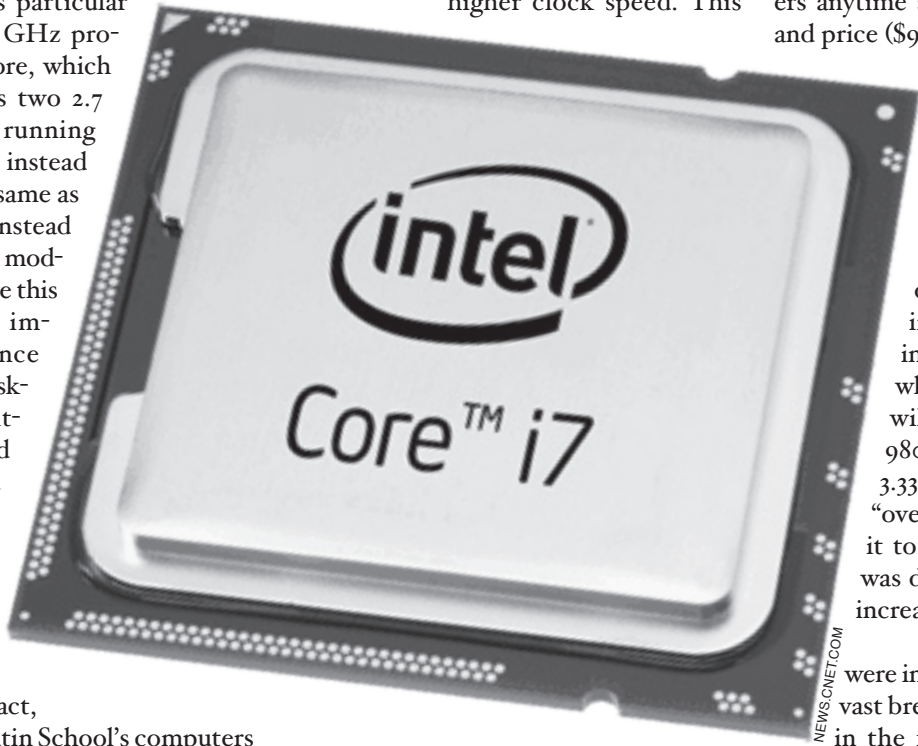
Despite this nonsensical mess, there is in fact a way to distinguish the good from the bad. Consider a CPU (central processing unit), the main electronic component of a computer that handles its numerous operations. Today, a processor’s efficiency is categorized by a variety of factors including clock speed and the number of cores. Can the mainstream consumer really tell the difference between an Intel Pentium D 3.40GHz and a Pentium Dual-Core 2.70GHz E5400 just by its title? Part of the solution lies in the numbers inscribed. That number is the clock speed of the processor, measured in hertz. The higher the hertz, the more number of circuit rotations and the faster the electric current, the faster it computes. Think of it as riding a bike – as the wheels move faster, so does the bike itself. For example, a processor with a

speed of 1GHz (Gigahertz) goes through 10^9 cycles per second.

Recall that the Pentium Dual-Core E5400 has a processing speed of 2.7 GHz and the Pentium D is clocked at 3.4 GHz. Does that mean the higher numbered processor would perform better in everyday tasks? In this particular situation, the 2.7 GHz processor is a dual core, which means that it has two 2.7 GHz processors running on the same chip instead of one (much the same as having two bikes instead of one). Almost all modern computers have this feature, since it improves performance and makes multitasking easier by splitting the workload between its cores. This means you can have a background antivirus scan taking place while you watch a movie and browse the internet. In fact, most of Boston Latin School’s computers have dual-core processors.

Intel is currently the world’s leading processor manufacturer. Starting in 1998 with its Celeron line of processors, the corporation has made technological breakthroughs with its Core 2 Duo, Core

i5, and Core i7 series. They represent the different classes of processors, and it is important to know the general families from which they come. For example, an Intel Core i7-860 2.80 GHz outperforms the Intel Core2 Duo Processor 3.33 GHz E8600, despite the Core 2 Duo’s higher clock speed. This



is because the Core 2 Duo has only 2 cores at 3.33 GHz, but the Core i7 includes 4 cores.

The newest and most advanced processor today is the Intel Core i7 980X Extreme Edition. Dubbed as the world’s

most powerful processor, it features an innovative 6 cores. Moreover, it features Intel’s recent “Turboboost” technology, which automatically speeds up the cores when needed to perform especially demanding tasks. Don’t expect to see this processor in mainstream computers anytime soon, since its sheer power and price (\$999) was designed, as weblog *Engadget* puts it, for “gamers and content editors that simply refuse to live anywhere other than on the cutting edge.” High end computer manufacturers such as Alienware and Falcon Northwest have already implemented this hardware into their product line. Those who are still not yet satisfied will be glad to hear that the 980X can be overclocked from 3.33 GHz to 4 GHz. When you “overclock” a processor, you set it to a higher clock rate than it was designed to run at, giving an increase in processor speed.

Ever since computers were introduced in the 20th century, vast breakthroughs have been made in the field of electronic science, paving the way for an endless slew of developments and improvements. Though multicore processing was only a dream merely a decade ago, technology has advanced, and will continue to evolve, at an exponential rate.

Google's Dilemma

BY **ZOE LI, III**
LAYOUT ASSOCIATE

In 1998, the Gold Shield Project, also known as the Great Firewall of China, began blocking access to content that the Chinese government deemed “unsuitable” for its citizens. This was done largely for political purposes, since the blocked content ranged from information on Taiwanese independence to the Tiananmen protests of 1989. While the internet limitation regulations of the Chinese government do not apply to its territories of Hong Kong and Macau, it does extend across mainland China.

Due to recent cyber attacks originating from China, Google has announced a plan to switch to an uncensored version of its search engine in China. The country has not yet accepted Google’s recent terms for an uncensored search engine, causing the company to consider withdrawal from China altogether.

Although Google was once blocked by the Great Firewall of China, the search engine is now allowed in China as long as a strict level of censorship remains. Due to their acceptance of Google, an additional billion people gained access to the most popular internet search engine. However, the tables that were beginning to tip in 2009, when Google became the only search engine in China to actually inform its users of blocked search results, have finally turned. Unless China accepts Google’s decision to completely uncensor its search engine, Google may leave China altogether. According to China Business News, the corporation has already considered announcing an April 19th pullout near the end of March, 2010.

While the Chinese search engine company Baidu is still the most popular

in China, Google’s withdrawal would undoubtedly have a large impact on the corporation. As the third largest economy in the world, China currently maintains healthy relationships with other western



GOOGLE PUTS ON ITS POKER FACE, CHINA UPS THE ANTE

corporations such as Microsoft and Apple without concerns over censorship. In fact, Microsoft even censors certain Chinese language searches outside of mainland China for a profit. The fact that China has the fastest-growing economy in the world also gives several reasons for these companies to stay, and Google is well aware of this fact.

Currently, the Chinese government believes that it risks political power by allowing a completely uncensored search engine. China may refuse Google’s terms simply because the government is aware of their country’s importance to the company; even if China refuses to allow an uncensored search engine, Google may not stay true to its threat. Though their current actions are praised by human-rights activists and show their resistance to cyber attacks, Google, as a business, simply has too much to lose.

Editor’s Note: As of March 22nd, Google has ceased operations in China, and all queries from mainland China are directed to their uncensored Hong Kong website, Google.hk. As of March 23rd, China began filtering all search queries from Hong Kong as well.

5 W's of Earthquakes

BY **LINDA DENG, II**
STAFF WRITER

So far, 2010 has been filled with celebrations for the new decade and a 375th anniversary at home. It has also been marked, however, with reports of tremendous amount of seismic activity around the world, with the most tragic being the catastrophic 7.0 earthquake in Haiti on January 12. There have been many more reports on other large earthquakes around the world.

Earthquakes are caused by sudden releases of energy from the earth’s crust, normally in areas near fault lines (areas where plates of the Earth’s crust converge or diverge). If a large earthquake occurs at sea, it may also create a tidal wave, or a tsunami. Generally speaking, larger earthquakes are followed by aftershocks, which are smaller “echoes” of the earthquake that can cause unexpected damage. The number ranking given to each earthquake refers to the amount of seismic energy

ter scale are hardly felt and cause little to no damage. Those ranked between 4.0 and 5.0 are considered to be moderate earthquakes and can cause some structural damage. Earthquakes ranked above 6.0, like the most recent one in Haiti, are considered strong and can cause significant damage. Scientists predict that an earthquake that reaches 13.0 on the Richter scale can release as much energy as the meteor that killed the dinosaurs! The largest earthquake, however, measured by man was the 1960 Chilean Earthquake, which reached 9.5.

Today, the country of Chile is one of the most seismically active locations on earth. On February 27, 2010, Chile experienced an 8.8 earthquake that brought tsunami warnings to the Pacific islands of Hawaii and the Philippines. Luckily, the tsunami warnings were cancelled as the waves died down. In fact, according to NASA scientist Alan Buis, this earthquake “shortened the length of an Earth day by about 1.26 microseconds (a microsecond is one millionth of a second).” Buis also reported that the 8.8 earthquake had in fact “moved Earth’s figure axis (the axis about which Earth’s mass is balanced) by 2.7 millarcseconds (3 inches).” The effects of earthquakes can be felt both globally and locally.

On February 26, the Ryukyu Islands of Japan, a seismically active area, experienced a 7.0 earthquake. On March 5, Sumatra, an island in Indonesia, was hit by a 6.8 earthquake. Why are these earthquakes not reported as much? Every year there are many large earthquakes that occur and only those that cause enough damage, or are above the 7.0 mark, gain media attention. Despite the large number of disastrous earthquakes, however, it cannot be assumed that the year of 2010 has been the most seismically active year.



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY?

released by an earthquake on the Richter magnitude scale, which is also known as the local magnitude scale. This scale is a logarithmic scale with a base of ten, meaning that a 3.0 earthquake’s strength is ten times smaller than that of a 4.0 earthquake and is ten times larger than that of a 2.0.

Earthquakes below 3.0 on the Rich-

FORUM

The Benefit of Economics

BY OLIVIA GRANT, I
STAFF WRITER

Boston Latin School seeks to ground its students in a contemporary classical education as preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life.

Do these words sound familiar? If not, you must be living under a rock.

These words are Boston Latin School's mission statement. However, we must ask ourselves, does the Boston Latin School curriculum really prepare us for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life? Although the curriculum is good, it could be better if all students were required to take an economics course, as understanding economics is extremely helpful in preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life.

Economics can really help students to get the most out of the college experience. Economics, which is described by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as the study of the production, distribution and the consumption of goods and services, can be useful in even the smallest of things, such as time management. Studying economic topics such as scarcity and cost-benefit analysis can really help one look at time management from an objective point of view. By asking questions like, "How much time do I have to do all of the things I want to do (scarcity)?" and, "How do I allocate my time effectively to do all of the things I need and want to do (cost-benefit analysis)?" one can draw connections between the problems of everyday life and the topics discussed in this class. Economics is also helpful when trying to make decisions with a limited amount of funds—a common problem for college students.

A basic knowledge of Economics and finance is a great way to establish responsible and engaged citizenship.

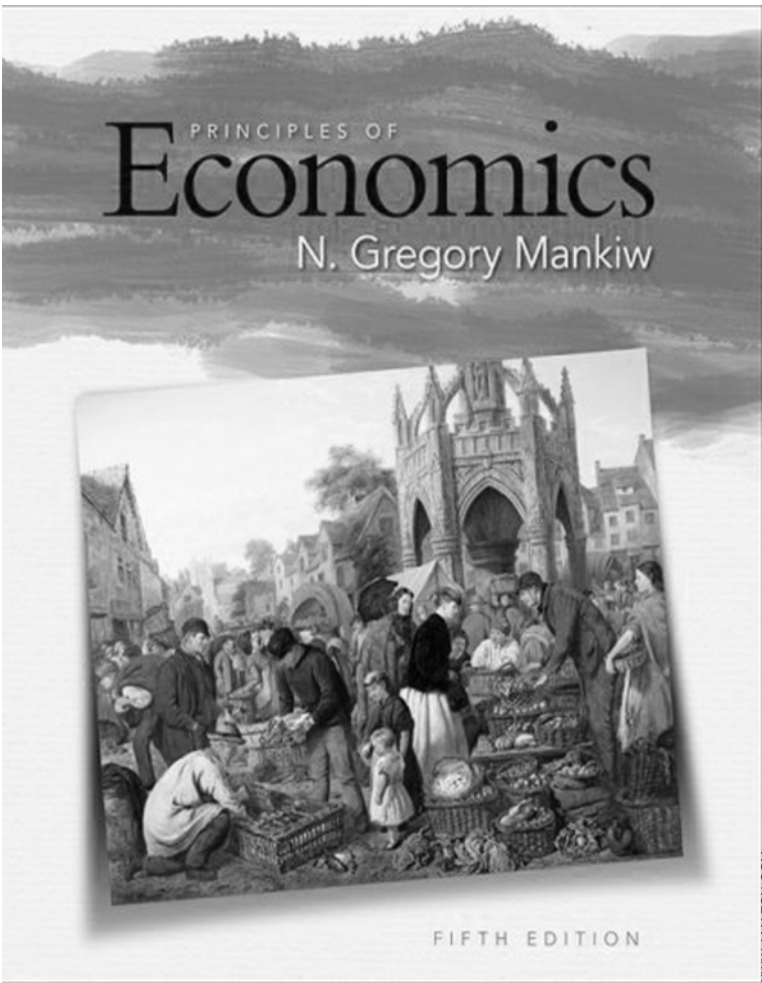
As much as we might hate to admit it, money makes the world go round. How can we become responsible and engaged citizens if we don't know anything about the way our economy works? How can we be responsible if we have no idea how future economic policies will affect us in the long run? How can we become effective members of our society if we're voting on tax policies that we don't un-

vive in the 21st century, money and an understanding of where money goes is essential. Furthermore, economic education, particularly in times like these, is a must. If we do not have any knowledge of things like the stock market and the markets of our chosen professions, how can we expect to take advantage of them to have a rewarding life? Only the study of Economics can help us learn about mar-

kets, trends and patterns. We cannot have a rewarding life if we have no money and if we don't understand where our money goes and how it is used. The ability to allocate the resources we are given for our personal benefit comes with an understanding of Economics, and this is an ability that everyone should have.

Designating personal resources effectively is a basic life skill that not many people are taught, and perhaps this is why the national personal debt is over \$16 billion. However, many people may shrink back in fear at the thought of economics and finances. That fear is completely understandable; but if the thought of AP Economics seems too intimidating, try the regular Economics course. Although I cannot speak for AP Economics, the regular economics course, (taught by Ms. Holm) does a great job of weaving all types of learning

styles together with visual power point presentations, hands-on simulations and lectures. In addition to learning about the practical applications of economics, you also learn about topics such as college financing, taxes, and public policy's effects on markets. Students who do not take an economics course may be at a disadvantage later in life. Sure, students can take economic courses in college, but it is Boston Latin School's mission to prepare their students for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life, and without knowledge of how the world works economically, that is just not possible.



ECONOMICS: FULFILLING THE MISSION STATEMENT

derstand? How are the aims of the BLS mission statement viable if we graduate without knowing how to effectively allocate money in our lives to avoid debt and promote good spending habits and good credit? A basic knowledge of economics can go a long way in helping students become responsible and engaged citizens. Without it, we may not leave the school with the knowledge needed to survive and to do well in the real world—the exact opposite of what the Boston Latin School mission statement works toward for each of its pupils.

Survival is certainly a necessity for a rewarding life. And in order to sur-

Classes on the Roof?

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Ask the Argo She-Wolf

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

My boyfriend has been really frustrating me lately. He keeps calling me when I'm out clubbing and don't have any service, and he expects me to be able to talk with him! He won't make any plans with me on the weekend, so I'll go out to have fun by myself, and then he won't stop bothering me. Help!

-Girl Aggravated & Getting Annoyed

Dear GAGA,

This guy sounds annoying. Break up with him, and find your Honey B. END.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

Yesterday, I got stuck in my pants. I mean, I know that sounds weird. But they're so tight, it's all I can do just to get in and out of them. And I ended up actually having to CUT MYSELF OUT OF MY PANTS. Like I had to hop around until I found a pair of scissors and was able to hack at the fabric until I could move freely again. And although this is the first time I've gotten stuck, the tightness of my pants causes recurring problems. But if I talked to my friends about this issue, I would lose all of my testosterone points. (Yeah. I'm a guy. With tight pants.) How do I solve this problem?

-In New Denim Incarcerated Everyday

Dear INDIE,

I've actually gotten a lot of similar inquiries lately regarding the issue of circulation in the legs. It seems that the male youth these days are intent on wearing pants so tight that they limit movement and any respect people have had for them. Perhaps these young males are trying to teach a lesson to the guys whose pants are so saggy that it is a struggle for them to keep their boxers from becoming a public spectacle. But I guess I'll never understand just what goes through their heads. So all I have to say is that you have already lost all of your testosterone points—not by getting stuck in your tight pants, but by wearing them in the first place.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

It all started about a week ago. I was sitting in an ice cream bar sipping at a delightful little strawberry-banana milkshake when this man came up to me with his son and introduced himself. "Hello, my name is Daniel Plainview, and this is my son H.W. Plainview. Now, if I have a straw and you have a milkshake then I drink your milkshake." And then he did. The problem is that I can't stop thinking about this guy. His commanding tone transported me to... Oh I don't know, but every time I go up to him with a milkshake, trying to get his attention, he looks at me with this face...like...like, he wants to abandon me on a train after I've gone deaf. What should I do? I can't sleep or eat, but I have developed an unhealthy obsession for milkshakes.

-MyschnitzelbringsalltheBoystothe-yard516

Dear...um, Schnitzel,

I'm not even sure what to say. Try committing yourself to an asylum; I think you'll have a lot in common with the residents there. Good luck...?

Send your anonymous questions, worries, condundrums, lamentations, queries, or anything else you might want to send us to:
blsargo.advicecolumn@gmail.com

FORUM

Should We Keep The Lid On The Pot?

By **NAOMI LEONARD, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In early 2009, a California state representative named Tom Ammiano introduced the Marijuana Control, Regulation and Education Act, a bill that would make marijuana legal and taxable in California. The bill has not been passed yet, and may never be passed. Ammiano, however, claims that the legalization of marijuana could “generate more than \$1 billion annually for the cash-strapped state.” Lately, budget deficits in local, state and federal governments have lead to significant cuts in public schools and the closing of libraries and other public institutions. The possible revenue made by putting a tax on the sale of marijuana is something that has unfortunately not been widely explored or discussed in a realistic manner.

Many people hold issue with the legalization of such a ‘harmful’ substance. Some argue that if marijuana is legal, people will become more lethargic than they already are and won’t work at their current capacity. They believe that this decrease in work effort will result in businesses making less money, which will cause the entire country to have an overall decrease in economic productivity. There is also the concern that recreational use of marijuana could make people less interested in family and community relations. This would have major economic costs because

the government would have to help social networks and communities that are weakened because of marijuana use. Many of the opponents of the bill also think that legalization will result in more people being persuaded to smoke marijuana or abuse even more dangerous drugs. These people are clearly dazed and confused.

In the Netherlands, marijuana is sold at designated stores with the permission of the government. The results of the drug policy of the Netherlands completely disprove all of the arguments against legalization of cannabis. The drug policy has four major objectives: to prevent hard drug use, reduce harm to marijuana users, diminish public nuisance by drug users and combat the production and trafficking of drugs. This policy came about when politicians came to terms with the fact that illegal drug use would always be an issue, and that it’s easier to try to control and regulate it than it is to track down and prosecute every offender. Except the policy does not allow for a free-for-all: the use of hard drugs such as heroin or cocaine is completely illegal. It’s a commonly held belief that marijuana is a gateway drug, and it seems that politicians in the Netherlands believe that people are

less likely to move from a legal drug to an

with alcohol or tobacco, the annual revenue would be somewhere between \$10 billion and \$14 billion per year. Of course, the government having to sell marijuana means that they have to sponsor the production of this drug. It costs about 33¢ to produce a gram of marijuana, and if it was then sold for the price it goes for on the street today, somewhere between \$10-\$25 a gram, the profits would be astronomical! Furthermore, his study concluded that removing the ban on marijuana would



PROTESTORS SUPPORTING THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

illegal one than they are to move from one illegal drug to another. The country still spends a significant amount of money on anti-drug expenditures, but unlike the US, the Netherlands spends the majority of this money on rehabilitation programs and public education; not incarceration.

There are many experts who strongly support the idea of legalizing marijuana to increase tax revenue. For example, a study conducted by Harvard professor Dr. Jeffrey Miron concluded that if the U.S. was to replace marijuana prohibition with a system of taxation similar to that used

save the government approximately \$7.7 billion in anti-drug advertisement and enforcement.

Regardless of personal opinion, it is hard to deny that the debate over whether a bill legalizing non-medicinal marijuana use would be a practical way of increasing state income is finally heating up and gaining some serious support. If the bill passes in California, perhaps the rest of the country ought to follow suit, because with our country in such economic trouble, it seems almost irresponsible to bluntly disregard a realistic solution.

A Better Education?

By **KATIE WANG, IV**
STAFF WRITER

It’s about time that the government proposed a change for the misguided education plan formed during the Bush era. So it is wonderful news that President Obama and his administration have revised the “No Child Left Behind” law into a more innovative idea. The problem is, if Bush’s plan – which, by the way, had acquired bipartisan support in the beginning stages – didn’t work eight years ago, what makes Obama’s new and improved “Big Idea” any better?

I would first like to say that personally, I consider the issue of education to be much more important than anything else. It is simply the key to an improved future for America. Better education today will bring a brighter tomorrow.

We can all agree that Obama’s “Race to the Top” plan is an ingenious and novel approach, offering competitive grants to states that adopt high standards, improve lousy schools and reward good teachers. Sure, it sounds like a fresh, promising idea. But you have to remember that we are in an educational system where fresh and promising ideas go to waste. Like NCLB, this new policy relies on the assumption that the federal government not only knows how to raise student performance and provide for competition, but has the power to influence states and local school districts to make the changes required to help students in need. Prior experience, however, indicates that all of these pre-suppositions are wrong.

Instead of raising standards for students and schools, the Obama administration will allow for 90% of the schools to escape responsibility for student achievement on tests. Only the lowest 5% are required to take action for their students to reach the national standard.

Instead of judging schools by how well their students do based on regulated exams, Obama will be using the criteria of whether the schools are capable of

producing more “college ready,” or “career ready” students. I admire his idea of gutting out the problem of “teaching the test,” as they call it, to prepare students, but as the Wall Street Journal points out: “Abandoning current goals for students to reach grade level performance and promising that instead, kids will be made ‘college ready’ is like promising someone they’ll be able to run the marathon without first determining if they can run a mile.” We have been trying to reform education for a long time, and one thing we have learned over the years is that you cannot possibly revolutionize it. The American schooling system in itself is complicated and expansive, not to mention slow to change and lacking in improvement. Let’s take a look back at the “No Child Left Behind” policy. Eight years ago, when Congress passed George W. Bush’s signature education initiative, it was widely hailed as a bipartisan breakthrough — a victory for American children, particularly those traditionally underserved by public schools — and seemed to carry much potential. Even Senator Ted Kennedy was a strong advocate for the NCLB.

But all of the potential has not come to fruition. America launched a fresh and expensive effort to improve schools and help their students — and so far it hasn’t worked.

Why? Let’s look at some facts: Bush’s plan rested on the idea that what schools need are small additions rather than fundamental changes. Also, the “No Child Left Behind” policy actually makes it harder for states to improve their quality of teaching.

I think that every school wants to improve. However, it can be a tricky process sometimes – as we have even seen at Boston Latin School, when we all witnessed the upheaval upon the school’s decision to remove honors classes. Was it a smart move? Will Obama’s push for education see success in the future? I guess we will just have to wait and see.

The Tickling War

By **NHU LE, IV**
STAFF WRITER

Eric Massa stepped down from his position as a Representative of New York three weeks ago, thus joining the slowly growing ranks of politicians forced to resign amidst allegations of ethics violations. Though I was indeed tickled by the allegations that Eric Massa had tickled a young male aide (whom he happens to live with), such stories no longer surprise me. The era in which the American people found themselves surprised by scandals such as Bill Clinton’s extramarital affair is long gone. This lowering of our expectations of our politicians is a serious issue in our society— how can we tackle the economic crisis, health care reform, and foreign wars when Americans laugh at our supposedly illustrious representatives? There must exist a certain level of trust between the American people and the politicians who represent them, yet it is impossible to trust the growing number of politicians engaging in hypocritical behavior.

More than a month ago, New York Governor David Paterson was accused of interfering in a domestic abuse lawsuit involving an aide and his girlfriend. Paterson hadn’t even been elected to the governorship—he rose to the position when the former governor, Eliot Spitzer, resigned due to his involvement with an escort service. South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford paid thousands in fines for several ethics charges, including a vacation to Argentina with his mistress that was funded with tax money. In 2009, there were the cases of infamous presidential candidate John Edwards and Nevada Senator John Ensign, two politicians who admitted to having extramarital affairs and lying about them. The list goes on and on.

These scandals are newsworthy for two reasons. First and foremost are the moral implications. Nothing is more disgusting than the contradiction between

a politician’s actions and his platform. Senator John Ensign is a textbook case of this hypocrisy—he cited the “sanctity of marriage” as the basis of his opposition to gay marriage...while having an affair. Secondly, these scandals involve violations of the law. Crimes including bribery, perjury, sexual harassment, abuse of political power, and prostitution were all committed by politicians over the past two years. These actions should be investigated by the National Ethics Committee, and the politicians should be punished under the law. Unfortunately, this does not usually happen and justice does not go far enough in punishing these criminals.

When investigations do occur, their efficiency is dubious at best. They are usually only launched when the stories first break, or even later. In Eric Massa’s case, his chief of staff reported the misconduct in October, but no actions were taken for quite some time. Even when the investigations are legitimate, ethics charges are often dropped (Paterson, Sanford and Ensign all remained in office). Usually, however, the politicians involved in such cases resign with only their reputations tarnished.

The legal and political ramifications for misconduct in politics are simply not stringent enough, and this is detrimental to the reputation of American politics. Many of us no longer take politics seriously because of the laughable and hypocritical actions of our politicians. The only way to stem America’s disgust with its politicians is to prove to its citizens that their government still works. This dancing around the issue with minor punishments must stop if an impression of governmental stagnation and corruption is to be avoided. A complete investigation must be conducted, in the open, on all the men mentioned above. Americans, too, must take responsibility.

THE TICKLING WAR
Continued on page 8

Do you support the abolition of the honors system?



YES

By ISAAC BUCK, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

By separating us into honors and regular classes, Latin School has been able to tier each grade into higher and lower performing students. Although we claim to be the best of the best of the best, there is still a certain amount of ranking that is done throughout each grade. But the real question is, when should this ranking start? At BLS, the honors math track starts in 8th grade. Yes, you can be admitted later, but that clear separation begins too early on. The whole point of high school is to be able to diversify – that is how we can find out what we are best at. Specialization need not start until college. The new system that is being implemented is allowing students to diversify by allowing them to be prepared to take higher level courses (AP) in a wide range of subjects

Since the honors program is not a standardized program like AP, the curriculums are subjective to how a teacher decides to teach the class. In fact, the quality of the class depends 100 percent on the teacher. In order for an honors class to work, you must have the best teachers—teachers who are enthusiastic about their subjects. This is the reason the honors system did not work at BLS. We do not have enough of these teachers to have a strong honors program and at the same time not retract support from the regular classes.

Although many students were upset after the honors program decision was announced, there are some positive effects to the new plan. One positive effect of this new policy is that teacher accountability will be raised. If there are five teachers teaching the same course, and one or two of those teachers' classes are doing much worse than the others', then the administration will realize, "Wow, it might not be the students' fault," (something we've been trying to tell them for years...). But we should go even farther to raise teacher accountability. The administration should introduce a program that can be directly seen as beneficial to the student body: student evaluations of teachers.

We are all familiar with the scene: there is a horrendous teacher and students complain. After enough complaints, the department head comes in for a visit. There is only one problem: they announce their visit. So the day the department head comes in, the teacher puts on a dog and pony show. The only way to truly hold teachers accountable for what they do on a day-to-day basis is to have the only people who are in the classroom—the students—give feedback.

One of the arguments that new students have continuously brought up is that the new system will wreak havoc on everyone's GPA. So know this: it will not affect your GPA. Actually, I take that back. It will help your GPA. Colleges do not take into account the BLS weighted GPA. They either don't weigh the GPAs and just look at your actual grades, or they weigh them based on the merits that they have assigned to your school. BLS is considered an honors school, and therefore our regular classes are given roughly the same weight as an honors course at say, English High. So instead of having honors, honors-honors, and AP classes, we now have honors and AP classes.

Now ask yourself: if there is a system that allows teachers to teach whatever the heck they want, shouldn't it be changed? If there is a system that does not actually boost your GPA, why not try something new? If there is a broken system, why not try new things to fix it? So, my fellow sophomores, take that into consideration before trying to fight the new system: it may just be helping you out.

NO

By VANYA ZVONAR, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For as long as many can remember, Boston Latin School has had an excellent reputation within the state and across the country. But with the newest change in the system of classes at BLS, students will no longer be able to take honors courses; only regular and AP courses will be taught. The administration is comforting everyone by pointing out that our regular classes are honors classes compared to other schools. Our basic curriculum is already advanced. With this change, all regular classes will in fact be at an honors level. But at whose honors level? Our honors level? People say to never compare yourself to the good, but rather, to the best. If we are the best, our only competition is ourselves. With no honors classes, we are just taking ourselves down one step.

Let's imagine this new system. Take a ninth grade algebra class. Four hundred kids are learning the same material at the same pace. We have a student who loves math and is motivated to work hard and excel in this subject. On the other side, we have a student who may or may not enjoy math, but cannot grasp the subject, as hard as he tries. The teacher wants the best for everybody, accommodating to both students. The teacher starts the year off with an easy paced class and fairly easy material. Soon the realization sets in that student A, who excels at math, is bored. The teacher raises the bar: a quicker pace and harder material. Student A is happy. But now student B is struggling. You see, the balance cannot be achieved. One student will always feel out of place. I am in fact not even worried about student A. He will amuse himself with whatever material he receives. It's student B that will suffer. It is student B that will have a hard time keeping up with the curriculum. You cannot put two such kids in the same math class. It is not fair to everyone.

After our assembly, people came up to me and said, "Oh Vanya, you must be so mad that they took away honors! Now your GPA can't be really high." I can see how this perspective seems biased coming from a person who takes honors classes. But get this straight: it's NOT the GPA we are concerned with. We will all graduate and go to fine schools. What we want to secure is the education we have during our time at BLS. Honor classes serve for students who want to take the initiative and challenge themselves by taking a harder class. Honors is an acknowledgement of hard work and a commitment to pushing yourself where you either know you can go or want to go. If a student despises math or Latin, leave them out of the honors equation. But don't take the opportunity away from those who want it, from those who will truly utilize it to better themselves and do what they want to do. They have the right and should have the privilege of taking such a class.

Honors also serves as a weight on the balance beam of classes. If a student is struggling in math but does well in English, they can take honors English and level out their grade. Classes like this give incentive. With no honors classes, everyone may just as well sit back and relax. The grade boost serves to take those kids who are on the fence about whether or not they should take an honors class and challenge themselves and push them over.

Equal opportunity is what it should be about, and I commend the administration for trying to achieve this. I just feel that the elimination of honors classes, especially at a school like ours, is not the best idea. Students at BLS are competitive amongst themselves and need the challenge. If anything, honors serves to push some kids to challenge themselves with the reward of a grade boost. It is not fair to "level the playing field" this way. We are the best and our own standards should reflect that.

Forum Question

Do you support the abolition of the honors system?



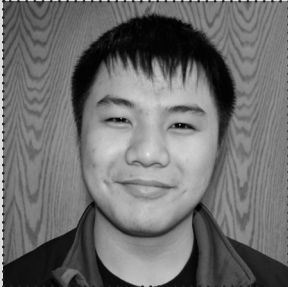
"It's unfair, students aren't being academically rewarded for the class's difficulty. This is communism. Fight the power."
—Hieu N. & Evangelos K., I



"I don't think it's fair that as a junior now we get to keep our honors classes next year but the sophomores don't."
—Gina Lee, II



"No, because there are way less opportunities to bring up my GPA."
—Melissa Murphy, III



"No. Getting rid of the honors classes will affect the people who worked hard to get into them."
—Viet Vu, IV



"No, because if honors students are in the same classes as regular students then the regular students will feel stupid."
—Liz Lomusao, V



"Yes, because it would be more fair for all students."
—Emma Jost-Price, VI

FORUM

Libraries Approaching Extinction

BY DELIA RIDGE CREAMER, III
& ROBERT FITZPATRICK, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER &
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

An issue currently weighing on the mind of every librarian in Boston is one that will soon affect all Bostonians: there will be significant budget cuts in the Boston Public Library System as the result of a very thoughtless solution to an almost unsolvable problem. Due to a budget barely big enough to throw a sweet sixteen, the City of Boston needs to cut superfluous spending; for some reason the city seems to think that education and libraries are logical targets. I know that cutting police forces, fire departments, and hospitals is out of the question, but should the mental stimulant of Bostonians really be the first thing to go?

Libraries have been a source of knowledge for thousands of years. They serve not only as places for people to congregate, explore, and learn, but they are also the heart of many neighborhoods. When asked about their childhood, almost everyone who is literate mentions stories of their second home, the local library. As Brighton dwellers, the authors

of this article have had the privilege of growing up in the Faneuil Branch Library. At this branch, children learn both how to be a part of their community and how to use their imagination. Because of some of the great programs this library offers, children simply do not check out and read books; they also involve themselves in a plethora of creative activities: plays, cultural events, annual parades, and more.



A SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS

Without this library, kids in Brighton who are not interested in sports wouldn't really have anywhere to go. As a result of these budget cuts, this scary thought might become a reality.

Since the news of possible library closings and the reduction of library hours reached the ears of the public, two potential plans have been proposed. The

first option would be to cut the hours of 18 of the smaller branches, branches that already have extremely limited hours. Although one might think that cutting hours would only result in a difference between a library closing at five o'clock and a library closing at three o'clock, these "withering" branches would, in reality, be restricted to a one-to-three day week. This option would also greatly impact the work schedule of the librarians. The draft of the plan states that Saturday hours would be reduced or completely eliminated, and it is highly probable that staff members would be required to work at up to three different locations per week. Most libraries aren't open on Sundays, and without Saturdays, the amount of free time allotted for reading would be severely diminished. And with librarians working in multiple libraries, the familiarity that had always made a visit to your local library so pleasant and comforting would disappear, and your second home would turn into a room full of strangers.

The second option (which is slightly worse than the first) is closing a total of 10 branches, which would allow the other 16 to increase the breadth of their resources (books, computers, DVDs, etc.). Although it might seem that consolidating 26 libraries into 16 branches highly concentrated in resources might produce a better system, this option would result

in at least 35 library staff members losing their jobs, and would strip neighborhoods of places that have long been centers of their communities.

The Boston Public Library trustees' response to all of this debate is to suggest that the libraries make a wider selection of their resources available online. This would help to compensate for the loss of accessibility for people in affected areas, and would also be much cheaper for the library system to maintain. However, by taking this small step toward becoming more technologically relevant, the BPL would also take a step towards the extinction of libraries. This is a terrifying thought because libraries are not just important for finding specific books; they are comfortable places to browse, meet people from one's community, and discuss books with other readers and bibliophiles. Readers across Boston have recognized this important fact and are responding vehemently. People are passing around petitions in local libraries, planning read-ins and even organizing candlelight vigils. Candlelight vigils, however, are signs of mourning and loss, and we haven't lost our libraries yet! We need to talk with the policy-makers and let them know how important our libraries are to us. If we work together with those making the decisions, there is a chance of finding a solution that causes the least damage to our communities.

MBTA Fare Evasion

BY KATHLEEN MELLO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Within the last few months, many students, mostly traveling on the Green Line, have been hit with the dreaded Fare Evasion ticket from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). This is incurring the wrath of many and is unfair to those who forgot their wallet at home.

It makes sense that the MBTA is cracking down on T riders who sneak onto the train, as it is in a great deal of debt and can't afford to let anyone ride for free. However, I think a line has to be drawn between normal T riders and high school students. From the first day of school until the last day of June, students who live outside a two mile radius of their school are allowed to ride the T for free from 5:00 A.M. until 11:00 P.M. on weekdays. Therefore, most aren't really evading the fare if they have no fare to pay in the first place.

Furthermore, there's always a day from time to time when a student misplaces their bus pass or simply forgets it at home. It's not fair that just because they make this trivial mistake and enter the train through the back doors, they must fork over a fifteen dollar fine to the unreliable and inconsiderate MBTA. Prior to being apprehended, most of these students had always ridden the T for free. Why should this change all of a sudden? Even when a student does have their pass, the MBTA drivers often wave them by carelessly. However, when an opportunity to make money arises, of course students are the MBTA's immediate target.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 159, Section 101 states, "Whoever fraudulently evades or attempts to evade the payment of a toll or fare lawfully established by a railroad corporation or railway company, either by giving a false answer to the collector of the toll or fare, or by traveling beyond the point to which he has paid the same, or by leaving the train, car, motor bus or trackless

trolley vehicle without having paid the toll or fare established for the distance traveled." In most of the cases where students have been charged with fare evasion, none of the things cited above have occurred.

For example, Sarah Minahan (I) had forgotten her wallet at home on January 12, and was charged with fare evasion after entering the train through the rear doors. After the T official refused to believe she was a student because she didn't have her ID (which was also in her wallet), she tried to prove her case by showing the driver her Boston Latin School-issued textbooks. After he refused to accept her textbooks as sufficient evidence, she offered to pay the fare, but he said "it was too late." More importantly, he then proceeded to demand for her address, social security number, and other private information on the crowded train. Is that even legal? Nevertheless, it's clearly wrong. Seeing as the train allowed her as well as other students to come through the side doors, and noting how she did offer to pay for her fare before leaving the train, she should not have been issued a ticket. M.G.L. Chapter 159, Section 101 also states that tickets should only be issued to a person who "does not upon first demand pay such toll or fare." Sarah offered to pay for her fare upon the first demand, further proving her innocence of the ticket she was issued.

Don't get me wrong, I love the accessibility and convenience of the MBTA, but if they really want to save money, maybe they should cut the generous pensions they give to their employees. Maybe they should cut the amount of lackluster workers who don't do their job thoroughly. Or maybe the MBTA should be managed more judiciously so it wouldn't be in the financial situation that it's in. If you are a victim of a fare evasion ticket and don't want to pay this aggravating fine, my advice is simple: send in an appeal asking for a hearing. They most likely won't want to deal with the mess--and you'll save your fifteen bucks.

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CLINTON NGUYEN (II)

THE TICKLING WAR
Continued from page 6

The only newspaper that would touch the supposedly spurious (and later, it turned out, true) Edwards scandal story was The National Enquirer, a little-respected tabloid; allegations of this importance against major public figures should instead be reported by reputable news sources like The New York Times. We must treat ethics violations as the serious transgressions they are. We need to stop ridiculing our

politicians, as we do celebrities, and instead pay attention to them and hold them accountable. Our national attention span must be lengthened; the government will conclude investigations properly, but only if the people put pressure on them to do so. Better yet, voters can ensure that these politicians are never elected in the first place. The U.S. should take this ludicrous tickling story as a turning point. The times of absurd politicians like Sarah Palin, John Edwards and others must pass. It is time for politics to be taken seriously.

A & E

Mad as a Hatter

By **BIANCA SAUNDERS, I**
STAFF WRITER

Given Tim Burton’s more-than-lively imagination and brilliant knack for bringing his thoughts to life, it seemed only fitting that he would recreate the work of another imaginative genius, Lewis Carroll, with Alice in Wonderland. It also seemed fitting that critics and fans alike would harbor enormous expectations for this movie. The hype surrounding Alice was spectacular for many reasons, such as Johnny Depp’s role as the quirky Mad Hatter and the film’s 3D release. One question, however, still churned in the eager public’s mind: could Burton take this witty and sophisticated combination of satire and children’s fantasy from the late 1880s and make it his own while still pleasing traditional Alice fans?

I, myself, am a huge fan of Burton’s work and have appreciated his creative and modern spin on this Victorian novel. However, those of you expecting a faithful 3D adaption of Carroll’s novel may be disappointed. The storyline is choppy and moves along rapidly, conforming to neither Carroll’s Adventures in Wonderland nor its counterpart Through the Looking Glass, though it does twist in a little bit of both. Instead, Burton chooses to make Alice (Mia Wasikowska) a nineteen-year-old girl who faces the marriage proposal of a rather annoying man. Trying to avoid marrying him, Alice falls down the rabbit hole, where she will later meet her old friends (although she is unaware that she has visited before)



JOHNNY DEPP AS THE MAD HATTER

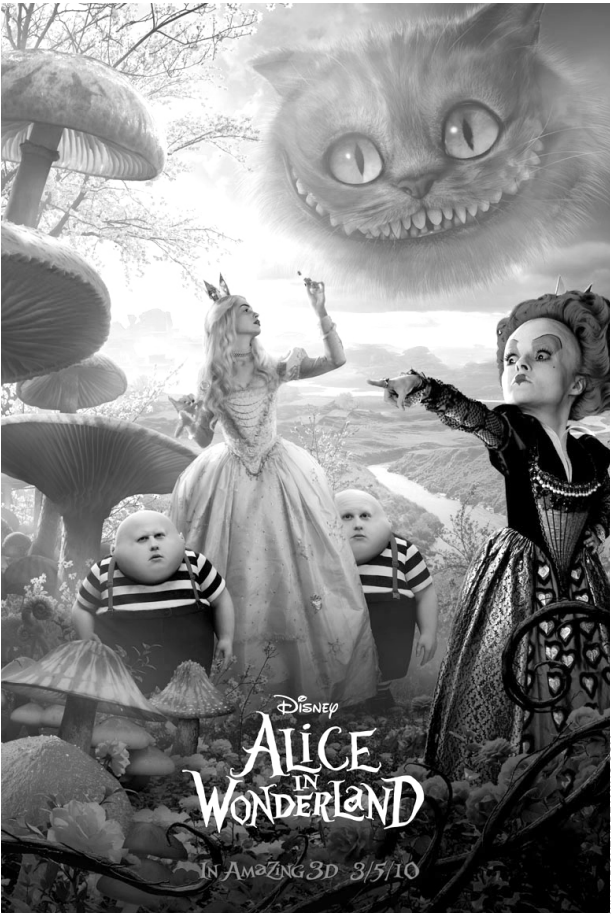
and have the duties of fighting the Jabberwock and freeing the land from the Red Queen. Traditional Alice fans may find this twist disappointing, as Burton has sorely overlooked Carroll’s original intentions for his work to be an example of both the wonders of an innocent and playful childhood story and the craftiness of a political satire.

Despite the vast variation from the book, not all of Carroll’s beloved characters are forgotten. The audience is delighted with many familiar faces, such as the Mad Hatter, the loveable Tweedledee and Tweedledum, and the Red Queen. Given the notable reputations of Burton, the actors, and the beloved story, it would be an understatement to say that the actors involved in the film have had to live up to high expectations. Luckily, their acting is nothing short of excellent. Depp amazes audiences with his ability to capture the essence of the Mad Hatter. Helena Bonham Carter is hysterical as the rather ignorant and large-headed Red Queen, and Wasikowska, despite being an adult, is delightful as the skeptical and innocent Alice. And although it is surprising to see normally quirky and cutesy Anne Hathaway in a Burton film, she is actually quite impressive in this movie.

For those of you still waiting to see the movie, I recommend seeing it in 3D. The animation for the film is what is usually expected of Burton: absolutely mind-blowing. He manages

to deliver the perfect combination of live action, motion capture technology, and stop motion, as well as 3D. Perhaps it is safe to say that Burton, with his lavish scenery, stunning costumes, and realistic animations, has brought Wonderland to life more than Carroll’s novel or Disney’s cartoon classic version.

When all is said and done, I highly recommend experiencing the movie for yourself. In the end, whether or not you are satisfied with the conclusion of the film depends on which side of the Alice spectrum you fall on: Carroll’s or Burton’s. And although this movie comes up slightly short in terms of following the storyline of the original Alice classics, Burton’s Alice in Wonderland is still a fantastic and wild ride that has brought to the Victorian novel a new sense of life.



BURTON’S VISION COME TO LIFE

ChatRoulette: Socializing Alone

By **KIM GILMORE, III**
& **ROBERT FITZPATRICK, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Thanks to social networking, knowing about a person’s drama, innermost secrets or even favorite movies does not need to involve meeting the person face-to-face. Websites such as Facebook and Myspace have long offered the opportunity to virtually “stalk” the lives of your close and not-so-close friends and family. Nowadays, with the basic knowledge of a stranger’s name and hometown, you can access almost anything you want to know about a person.

While these sites were intended for reconnecting with old friends, this generation is taking bolder and more revealing risks.

Formspring: One new form of social networking that is becoming the source of many water bubbler conversations is Formspring. Here, you can go on anyone’s Formspring page and ask anonymous questions, delving deep into the abyss of his or her personal life. In return, he or she can control how much you know by deciding which questions to answer.

However, the most entertaining Formspring users will answer anything. One Formspringer who has done this, obtaining hundreds of Boston Latin School

fans, is Patrick Elvin (III). He truly exemplifies those who push the boundaries day in and day out on social networking sites. People flock to his Formspring because he gives raw, honest and unabridged answers to questions most people would never ask aloud. In this day and age, where celebrity gossipers are more recognizable than the stars themselves, finding the “dirt” on people is the most popular form of entertainment.

ChatRoulette: The rules are simple: enter the site, allow camera and microphone access (as well as accepting the possibility of being recorded), click “New Game,” and voilà! You can start meeting your fellow lonely creatures of the world.

ChatRoulette offers friends for anyone who has nothing better to do at 2:00 A.M. on a Friday night, such as drunken college students, half-naked old men with unnaturally hairy chests and cool but condescending Europeans. But what do you do if you are paired with someone uninteresting, unattractive, obese, over twenty-eight or just plain creepy? Click next, and move on until you find someone normal!

This obsession with social networking sites like ChatRoulette is understandable. In the real world, you do not have a security blanket of emoticons and the always helpful “brb.” In the virtual world,

however, both can be found. Just face it: we are becoming a generation where talking to strangers in person is frowned upon and feared. Often, this action is even rebuffed with scoffs and eye rolls. Just a few decades ago, people met strangers by opening their front door with a smile on their face and greeting the world with a denim pantsuit and trapper keeper in hand. Now, we are so afraid of the world that we lock ourselves in dingy rooms and subject ourselves to the risk of seeing old men’s privates, just for the opportunity to meet cool French people.

In the end, it is all about the fear of face-to-face conversation going flat, the fear of going out of one’s Tempur-Pedic comfort zone and the joy in finding people like yourself and knowing them more intimately than most. People are afraid to expose themselves in real life, but they do not hesitate to do so online. As people increasingly reveal information about themselves, more and more flock to this basement safe haven, at the inevitable cost of sunlight. In the real world, however, there are a lot of stellar people looking for tangible friends. So go hit them up, and maybe then you will not feel so embarrassed reading up on Pat’s juicy Formspring.

NOTE: This article was written before the deactivation of Patrick Elvin’s FormSpring. R.I.P.

Spotlight

Ashley Winkfield



By **EMILY WEAN, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Did you just hear that girl riff?” Like a young Alicia Keys, that girl did riff—that girl is Ashley Winkfield. Well known in the music wing and even beyond the Boston Latin School Arts community, she is the star of every Music Night. Ashley and her stunning talents are well known.

Let’s face it: Ashley is short. She is about the same height as I am, reaching a whopping 5’2”. Her height, however, means nothing when it comes to her unbelievable stage presence, because when it comes to the arts, Ashley’s talents are numerous and remarkably strong. She can sing lower than any girl I have ever heard. As a tenor in the Wolfettes, she demonstrated her ability to hit the elusive low C to a full audience the day of our first accapella concert, “STAND in Harmony.” She regularly wows crowds with her gorgeous voice, most recently at last December’s winter concert with her soulful rendition of “Halo.”

Ashley is more than a singer. She is a violin player and a percussionist, both as a beat-boxer and a drummer on various instruments. She also has the chance to show off her sense of artistic talents in Show Choir with her fierce dance moves and tight harmonies.

Aside from excelling in musical performances, she is also a master behind the scenes. Having both composed and recorded many complete songs, she is an accomplished singer-songwriter, and arranges music for Wolfettes. Writing under the name Ashley K., Ashley writes songs ranging from R&B to pop, to almost anything else. She even has her very own musician pages on Facebook and MySpace, so look her up!

Ashley also holds leadership positions in both Show Choir and Wolfettes, which is more proof of her commitment to music. In these two groups, she helps countless others and commands attention (sometimes literally). Having worked with her in Wolfettes for the past two years, I have been fortunate enough to see her unique ideas in action every week. Her opinions and input are always essential.

Having worked alongside Ashley for four years now, it is clear to me that she is dedicated to the arts and very hard-working, and I’ve known that ever since the first day we met. It was in the ninth grade during our first full rehearsal for the musical “FAME!” We were rehearsing the group numbers. I didn’t know her yet, because she had just moved to Boston and entered BLS as a B-sie, but I immediately realized that she was the only one who knew all the words.

And that’s how Ashley is with all aspects of her life. She is a meticulous, hardworking student, and always comes prepared. Ashley applied to many prestigious colleges, any of which would be lucky to have her. From just a few short years of knowing Ashley, she has become one of my closest friends, and I know one thing for sure: one way or another, she will undoubtedly go far. Good luck next year, Winky, and remember us when you’re famous!

Spotlight
Edbert Wang



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM

By Beata Coloyan, I
& Dora Tao, I
Forum Editor & Staff Writer

Beata: The first time I met Edbert was in band class. He joined the saxophone section later than the rest of us, and I'm not going to lie – I was a little taken aback when I walked into class one day to see a little Chinese boy belting some sweet tunes. He soon surpassed us all, and went on to be our section leader, rising to the top and accompanying me on a sick solo of “Braveheart” with Mr. Harper in the eighth grade. Since then, he has also joined the infamous Big Band led by Mr. Pitts. Blasting on the baritone saxophone, he is easily able to handle one of the biggest and hardest instruments of the saxophone family.

Picking a stand partner in band is hard. You want someone to have the music, and someone who can keep time...but you also want someone who can keep you entertained during R1. Edbert is the perfect example of a good stand partner. Whether it's laughing at seeing the student teachers struggle, or making fun of fellow section members, he always seems to make class more fun. It should be noted however, that he never has his music...mainly because he's already memorized it.

Dora: Not only was I lucky enough to be in the infamous Cluster D with Edbert, but we also happen to live next door to each other. During one of our first neighborly get-togethers, I remember Edbert sitting in our living room with an empty cardboard box over his head. A good sport about it, he was forced to wear the box as punishment for losing a game of cards.

After carpooling with him to school for the past two years, I have learned that: 1) he is always wearing his headphones, 2) he clearly has a passion for music (he can often be seen taking out his alto saxophone, his baritone saxophone, or both from the car trunk) and 3) he seems to be able to stay awake on the car ride to school even though the rest of us fall asleep immediately after getting into the car.

Aside from his superb musical talent, Edbert has a true passion for art. After interning at Youth Design Boston over the summer, he started to take up a liking for graphic design and can now say that he is the successful designer of an ad for Staples. After applying to multiple art schools, Edbert will most likely be enrolling in the Rhode Island School of Design: a school with one of the best graphic design programs in the country.

Next year in college we hope that Edbert continues to foster his passion for music and art. Until then, walk the halls and look out for the tall kid with headphones, wearing one of his signature silk-screened shirts, and laughing at everyone around him.

A & E
Springing into Style

By Olivia Grant, I
Staff Writer

Spring is here and we can all finally breathe a sigh of relief and start smiling again. Just like our moods, our wardrobes could also use a bit of an update. The spring season is usually welcomed with bright colors, flowers, prints and flowy garments. Although these spring staples are still



in fashion, the 2010 runway shows have introduced some unique and refreshing trends for the season. Here are some of the most mentionable: **Military Jackets and Blazers:** The military-inspired jacket is making a huge comeback this spring. Designers, such as the funky Marc Jacobs and Louis Vuitton, showcased an array of seemingly tailor made, fitted military jackets for the chilly spring days. Blazers are also huge this season, particularly oversized, “boyfriend” fits. Blazers and military jackets are incredibly versatile and can be paired with

anything from skirts and flats to skinny jeans and boots. Just be sure to roll the sleeves up for a bit of femininity.

Tie Dye: As every hippie's favorite, tie dye was found in excess at Proenza Schouler's spring 2010 ready to wear runway show. The trouble with this trend is that you can easily overdo it. To keep from looking like a neon disaster, try pairing tie-dye patterned staples with warmer, solid colors and accessories.

Global Getdown: Along with spring, so comes vacation, and what better way to show off your jetsetting tendencies than to be inspired by exotic fashion? Jean Paul Gaultier went south of the border in his spring couture line, debuting his global creations at Paris Fashion Week. With sombrero-inspired hats and Mexican patterns and trims, he definitely proved that great fashion can be found everywhere, even in the most exotic places. Take the hint and spice up an outfit with bits of Latin-American, Native American or African inspired pieces and accessories.

Overalls: Overalls have been seen all over the runways. Shocking audiences at Ralph Lauren's ready to wear runway show, they have been met with mixed reviews. Some people in the fashion world are open to the idea, while many others are unenthusiastic. Whether you are a fan of overalls or not, wearing them will make you stylish and chic— to half the fashion population at least.

Short Shorts: This spring's short shorts have been ubiquitous. Short shorts are making their way onto many runways, from Marc Jacobs to Charlotte Ronson. These little guys are definitely a spring essential. Short shorts look best when paired with a flowy top, and pairing short shorts with a modest blazer can keep you from showing too much skin. So hit the gym, treadmill or pavement and work

out those legs, and they will be picture perfect when it is time to break out the short shorts.

Knee High Socks: Recycled from the early fall, knee high socks are a fashion favorite. Patterns, such as polka dots, and bright colors are especially encouraged. Match knee highs with a short skirt or dress for a youthful and playful feel. However, less is more when it comes to brights and patterns this spring. So remember that when pairing knee highs with a simple colored skirt or dress, it will bring personality and flavor to your outfits wonderfully.

Spring is all about reawakening. So, reawaken the senses and be playful and daring this spring. Wear goofy knee socks one day, and dig up those old overalls the next. Get in touch with your inner hippie and wear tie-dye or reveal your army brat side and wear a military inspired jacket. Whatever you do, do not be afraid to take risks, and most importantly, have fun!



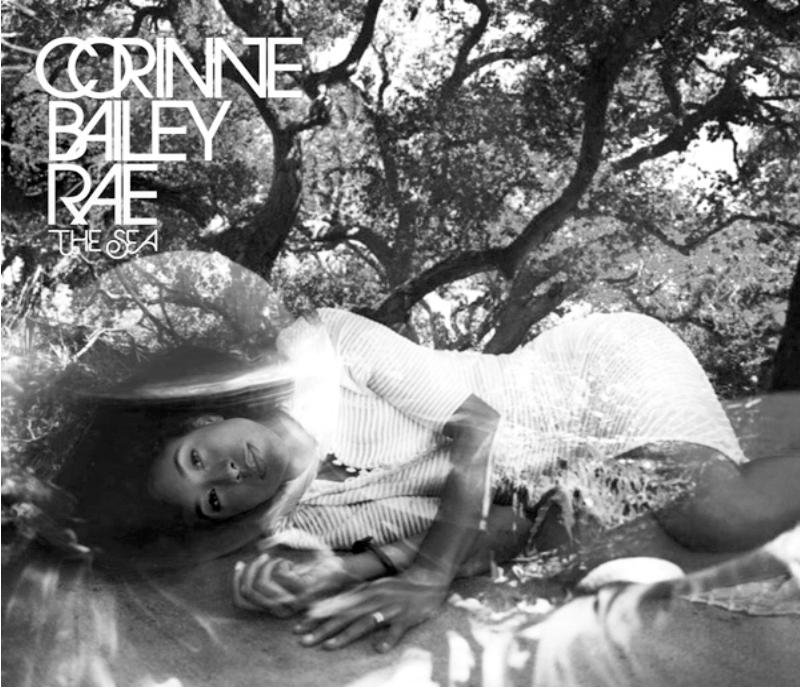
Bailey Rae Shines Again

By Eshe Sherley, III
Staff Writer

Corinne Bailey Rae had it rough. Her husband, saxophonist Jason Bruce Rae, died of a drug overdose in 2008. Known in the United States for her hit single “Put Your Records On,” Bailey Rae's songs are sunny and breezy, and she sings with Billy Holiday-esque vocals and a soul sensibility. With her husband's death, a dark cloud has temporarily covered Bailey Rae's sunny skies. Though some songs were written before her husband's death, most of Bailey Rae's songs on her latest album, *The Sea*, were written as a kind of elegy. In the liner notes, she acknowledges that “This album, like everything I do, is made to try and impress Jason Bruce Rae.”

This album features Bailey Rae's return to her indie rock roots with more guitar-driven songs. *The Sea* begins with acoustic guitars and the following lyrics: “He's a real live wire/he's the best of his kind/ wait till you see those eyes.” The grief is almost palpable as she remembers the man she loves. She is most affectionate when she looks back and reflects on her re-

lationship with her late husband in tracks like “Are You Here,” where she tries to recall summertime memories spent with him during an emotional winter. Although it is clear who Bailey Rae is referring to as she sings, she is very strategic about what she shares with us. The sorrow that



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RETURNING TO HER INDIE ROCK ROOTS

she endured is personal, but she manages to retain her privacy through her lyrics. Nonetheless, the listener can feel her grief burn through with her fragile, emotional vocals. Unlike many other singer/songwriters, Bailey Rae manages to be poignant about her relationship without sounding self-pitying.

There are still plenty of sunny songs for those of us who want to avoid the more depressing tracks. In the song “Closer,”

Bailey Rae evokes The Isley Brothers' effortless, smooth R & B style of the 70s. “Paper Dolls” is a little out of place in the lineup because it is a song more about girl power rather than another trip down memory lane. This is clearly one of the songs written before Bruce Rae's death.

“Paper Dolls” feels like it belongs in another album, not only on account of its lyrics, but also because it sounds like the kind of thing you might hear on an indie rock CD, which is okay, but out of place.

“Paris Nights/New York Mornings” is filled with happy memories of young love and is quite upbeat with an infectious groove, almost obscuring the ominous ending lyrics, “But we were young/we were young and we didn't know/we didn't know.” Strangely, I felt “Paris Nights” fits in as a nice cheerful interlude in *The Sea*, compared to the girl power anthem, “Paper Dolls.”

Bailey Rae ends the album with its title track “The Sea.” This is one of my favorite songs in the album. The pain she feels goes right through the lyrics and straight to your heart. The lyrics are simple, but her vocals give them a new emotional weight: “The majestic sea/breaks everything/ crushes everything/cleans everything/ takes everything/from me.” And with it, we feel her sadness too.

This CD is a great sophomore effort from Bailey Rae, with affectionate songs and stirring, well-crafted lyrics. I highly suggest that you buy it. Happy listening!

A & E

Repo Men: Blatantly Unoriginal

BY ZOE CUIPYLO-WATKINS, II
STAFF WRITER

In the first scenes of the sci-fi thriller *Repo Men*, based on the novel *Repossession Mambo* by Eric Garcia, viewers are introduced to a future where everything and anything is for sale on credit—including artificial organs. Jude Law plays Remy, a “repo man” for a giant artificial organ company called The Union. Along with his partner, Jake (Forest Whitaker), Remy repossesses organs from customers who default on the payments of their artificial organs—cutting out the organs and leaving people dying on the floor. However, one of the repo jobs leaves Remy with an artificial heart of his own, and as Remy falls behind on payments, things start to head south for him. His wife leaves him, taking his son. He is on the run from his former partner. In a gamble to win back some semblance of a life, he decides to remove both himself and girlfriend Beth (Alice Braga) from The Union’s system.



EVEN JUDE LAW AND FOREST WHITAKER COULDN'T SAVE THE SCRIPT

The sheer amount of gore and violence in this movie makes *Wanted* look tame, and there are more than a few unnecessary blood spurts as the body count runs higher than the number of Tiger

original in any way. Law is eerily reminiscent of a *Matrix*-era Keanu Reeves, right down to the weapons-concealing leather jackets. The setting could have been pulled straight out of *Blade Runner*, with

potential for social commentary about a society based on credit. But other than a few wry lines, the movie fails to capitalize on its potential, and instead focuses on the blood and gore. And there is blood and gore aplenty to go around, as one might assume with a movie about the repossession of organs.

In many ways, the cast of this movie is surprising. Although it is not his greatest role, Whitaker manages to bring on the craziness convincingly enough. Law appears to only have one facial expression, but for this character, one is more than enough. Liev Shreiber, who plays Remy’s chief, Frank, is perhaps the most realistic—he is creepy, cold and borderline psychotic as the Union boss. Alice Braga is the weakest link in the cast, as she is only a pretty face who manages to make walking and talking look difficult.

Though it is billed as a sci-fi action thriller, this movie is less science fiction and more action. You can suspend your disbelief for only so far, and this movie pushes the limits by introducing a society that sanctions mass murderers who go after children and adults alike. The blatant unoriginality of the whole thing ends up making this film crash and burn.

Shedding Some Light on Guild

BY CARLOS ROJAS, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On a cold Saturday morning a few weeks back, thirty-something students took off from the front of the school in a large, black bus headed for suburbia. Although a lack of sleep and headaches dominated the bus, excitement brewed under the oppressive grogginess of the wee hours. The bus, chock full of leads, ensemble members, a director, crew members, make-up artists, costume designers, food and coffee departed from Avenue Louis Pasteur, every minute inching closer and closer to Guild. For those not yet initiated into the coolness that is the theater world at Boston Latin School, the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival, more commonly known as “Guild,” is a state-wide event

organized “for the purpose of strengthening excellence, access and education



A SNAPSHOT FROM BLS' GUILD-ENTRY PLAY 'FORTRESS'

in the theatrical arts for middle and high school students and teachers.” Essentially, it is a day long event where Massachusetts schools perform a 40-minute play for two

judges, in hopes of advancing to the next stage of festival (There are four levels—preliminaries, semi-finals, finals and regionals). If a school is one of the two winners at finals, an aggressive three-day event, it moves on to regionals: a non-competitive round where students from all over New England display the high standards needed in any theater production.

So is it a competition? Many adults refrain from calling Guild a “competition” (something it should never be, according to BLS’ former theater director, Christa Crewdson). The students involved, however, are fully aware that it is a competition, where schools hope to move on and win, know-

ing the bitter disappointment that comes with not advancing to the next round.

Regardless of these discrepancies, it is still an honored tradition for those high school students who find their home on the stage — a tradition involving a long, action-packed day that either culminates in joyous accomplishment or acerbic disappointment on the ride home.

For various reasons, Ms. Crewdson left the school last year and took a position at Buckingham, Browne and Nichols. The school then hired part-time director Joseph Gels (’05), but what makes his directorial style different than Ms. Crewdson’s? Students who enjoy attending plays often know very little about the process of directing. So, I sat down with Mr. Gels to shed some light on what it took as a director to put on the company’s latest Guild-entry play, *Fortress*.

An Interview with Mr. Joseph Gels

Rojas: Have you ever worked as a director with teenage actors, or is this your first time?

Gels: No, I’ve worked with teens before! Senior year at Boston Latin, I directed the fall play and since then, I’ve taught Improv to high school students. Also, though it’s a different beast, I’ve directed a number of shows for colleges — many of the freshman actors in college count as high school students. [laughs]

R: How did you go about working with principal actors? How did you approach character work?

G: Actually, a lot of the work they did themselves... We had a few rehearsals dedicated to the two leads [Andy Vo (II) and Taylor Laffey (II)] We reviewed what they are thinking and feeling at several points in the play. We also explored the characters’ backgrounds. On one occasion, Andy Vo talked to Tadesh Inagaki (I) about his character, looking for feedback and for some fresh perspective, since everyone involved in the play had seen it countless times.

R: How did you go about working with the ensemble?

G: We did a lot of exercises based on focus and also on detail, you know, spotting the movements that were off, and emulating those ensemble actors who could do the best.

R: What do you think about the way judges decide what plays at Guild move on to the next round?

G: I would say that judging anything having to do with the arts is subjective. While the judges do have guidelines and guiding questions, it ultimately comes down to what the judge’s background is in theater. A judge at our preliminaries site who obviously enjoyed comic books said they loved the comic book background we chose, as well as the

make-up we made to look like superhero



JOSEPH GELS (’05), BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL THEATRE DIRECTOR

masks. A person at our semi-final site was a professional mime, so they naturally scrutinized the mime work in the play —obviously I did not give as much attention to that as much as she did. [laughs] It’s not by far a perfect system, but there

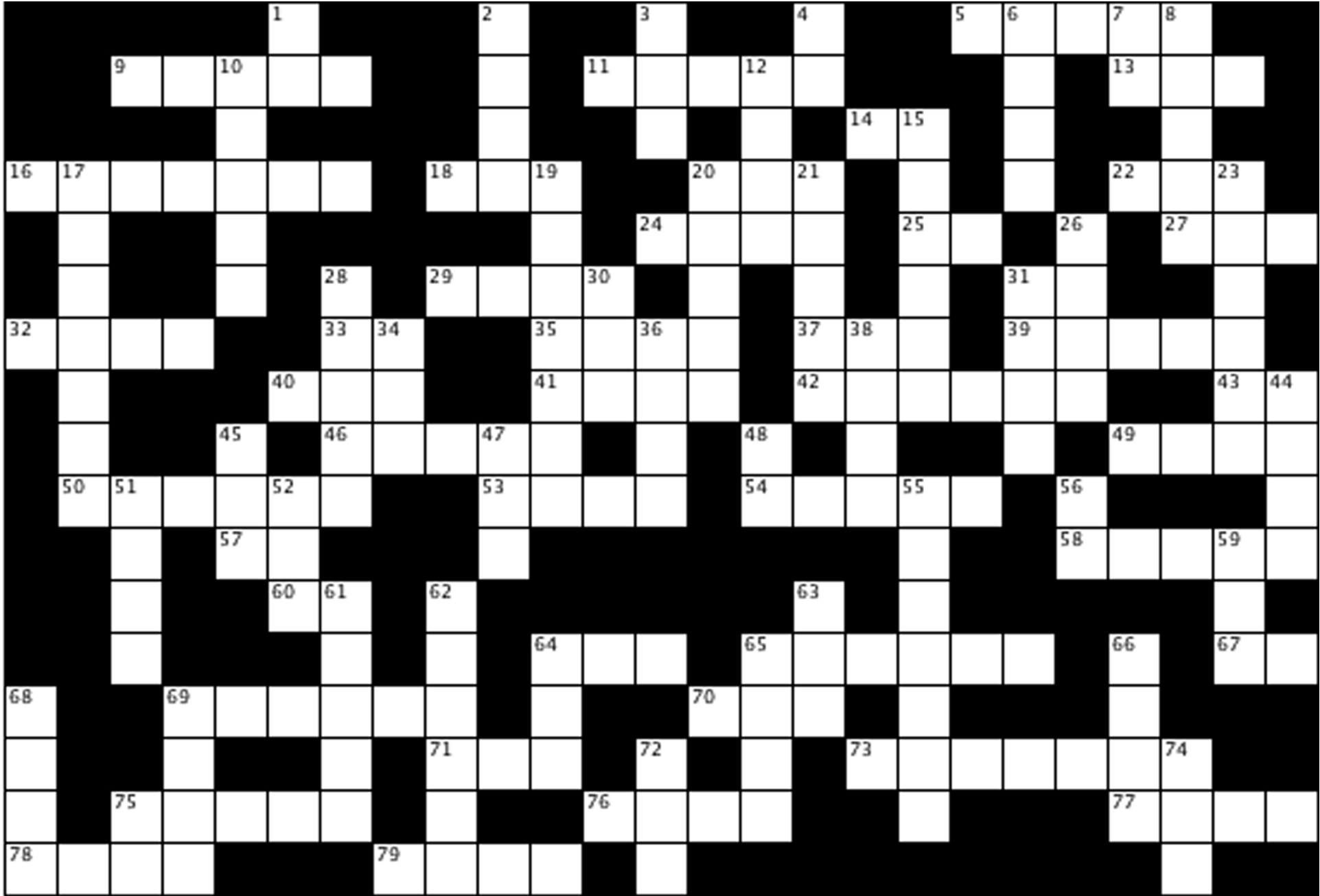
is no good way of fixing it, either. Ultimately, it should depend on how well a school can create a world for characters that are believable. That too, is subjective. A judge simply might not understand a certain aspect of a play.

R: How did you go about choosing *Fortress*?

G: I read a lot of plays. This year was a lot more rushed, obviously, since I found out fairly late in the summer that I had the job. The choice actually came from my girlfriend who suggested it after she had seen it at a theater festival she participated in. Hopefully this year, by October I will have set my

entire season. *Fortress* made it past the preliminary round, but did not make it past semifinals. Mr. Gels will be directing the upcoming musical *How to Succeed in Show Business Without Really Trying* this spring.

FUN PAGE



Across

5. Michaelangelo’s most famous sculpture
9. She wakes up in the morning feeling like P. Diddy
11. One of two Fairly OddParents
13. Cured salmon fillet, often served on bagels
14. The New WB (TV Channel)
16. Five number address additive
18. Swimmer’s unit of measurement
20. A French word
22. After Nov, but before Jan
24. American television “explorer”
25. Gold (abbr.)
27. This artist “put her records on”
29. Google and Yahoo competitor
31. After mi, but before sol
32. The D of DOA
33. Video game company: ____ Games
35. 1996 Republican presidential nominee; pineapple company
37. Bullfighter call
39. Ice cream eatery: JP ____
40. One of two “Rugrats” twins
41. A Latin work
42. Simpsons bully; BLS bully ____ Ar-nous

43. Argo Crossword Creator (abbr.)
46. Beates drummer
49. “America’s Next Top Model” host ____ Banks
50. Sesame ____
53. Harvard rival
54. If you’re a liar, then these are consequently on fire
57. More than large (abbr.)
58. Used in the rain, or in the army
60. Internet term: ____ address
64. Chinese Communist leader
65. Kitchen and laundry appliance company
67. “Former” prefix; romantic connotation
69. The D of FDR
70. Corn unit of measurement
71. Exclamation of dismay or exasperation: Oy ____
73. Flinstones locale
75. A lack of Spanish
76. Breakfast cereal, or Boston orchestra
77. Ukraine capital
78. New development in “The Office” nine months in the making
79. The D of FDA

Down

1. “Grey’s Anatomy” actress: Sandra ____
2. Indonesian island
3. “The Simpsons” bartender
4. “Fellow” prefix; one of the Four corner states
6. War material, specifically artillery
7. He, in French
8. Delaware capital
10. South Korean capital
12. Ethnic group exiled under the Spanish Inquisition
15. Pop goes the ____
17. Metamorphic, sedimentary, and this
19. Opens a box of evils, in Greek mythology
20. The accepted traditional customs and usages of a particular group
21. Claw: Cat as This: Eagle
23. Describes salads, names emperors
26. 2009 Sports Editor; ‘BRRRRAT’
28. “1234” indie rock group
30. Republican party acronym
31. Powder used to travel from fireplace to fireplace (Harry Potter)
34. CTRL+this+DEL
36. Olympic sledding event

38. Do this with it, rock with it
44. Converse alternative
45. Superman villain: ____ Luthor
47. Wheat, white, and whole grain alternative
48. U.S. Technology corporation
51. You can waste, take, lose, or tell this
52. 2010 Class Treasurer: ____ Hoffman
55. 140 characters or less
56. Unit of weight (abbr.)
59. Body digit
61. The devil wears this designer
62. 31st President of the United States
63. Van Gogh body part
64. Shortest month
65. Spiegelman graphic novel concerning the Holocaust
66. Brought by four-leaf clovers, rabbit feet and horseshoes
68. Take a ____ at it
69. June 6, 1944
72. Keeping place for animals; the BLS 8th grade hallway
74. Baby goat
75. Myspace competitor (abbr.)

Easy

6			8			7		2
		3	4					
8		1				6	9	
				7			1	5
			3		8			
9	6			2				
	3	2				5		4
					1	2		
7		5			6			8

Diabolical

7						3		
8				6	1		4	
		1	7			2		
					2	8		
2	6						5	3
		8	1					
		4			9	7		
	2		3	8				5
		9						8

Should Curling be an Olympic Sport?



YES

BY BRIAN SITCAWICH, I
STAFF WRITER

Every young American child has a dream. For many, this dream is to grow up to be an Olympic athlete. Growing up to perform on the world stage of the Olympic Games, however, is no easy task. Upon realizing this unfortunate dilemma, many children simply throw in the towel and live normal, average and unsatisfying lives. They allow their dreams to become nothing more than humorous wishes they had at an earlier point in life.

Curling, or glorified shuffleboard on ice, is here to save the dreams of those kids all over the world. It provides opportunities for those kids who may not even be athletes to represent their country in one of the biggest sporting events in the world. It is an example for kids everywhere that anyone can perform in the Olympics. All you need for curling are some strong vocal chords for yelling and some experience as a sweeper. Even the lazy can find themselves among the elite in the world of curling. Can't vigorously train for hours on end every day? Don't sweat it! Those who are not born with the physical characteristics of an Olympic athlete may still be able to compete in the Games one day. All one has to do is grab a curling stone, put on some fancy ice shoes and curl.

One prime example of the "common man" at the Olympics is the legendary John Shuster, captain of the U.S men's Curling team. Shuster had a rocky start to the Olympics, missing four straight, potential game-winning shots. He was benched and replaced by Chris Plys, but came back with a resounding victory against Sweden. In spite of his benching, he remains an inspiration to all average people out there who have screwed up or made mistakes at crucial points in their lives. John came back from his disappointment and achieved victory for all average Joes. Shuster is a true man of the people.

Curling needs to remain in all of its Olympic glory for as long as possible. The sport is doomed to die out eventually mainly because there exists only one island in the world where curling stones can be made. A special type of granite called ailsite is the only stone with a high enough quality to become a legitimate curling stone, and it exists only on Ailsa Craig, an uninhabited island just off the coast of Scotland. The supply is slowly dwindling and one day, there will no longer be any ailsite stone left. When that happens, curling will have to be taken out of the Olympics. We must enjoy the sport of curling while we still can.

Just the name "curling" screams Olympic glory. The athletes live for the sport, its fans live for the athletes, and the sport lives on. It has been around since the 16th century! Its rich history, continued popularity and the "smokin hot Denmark team" all show exactly why it remains in the Olympics today. Seriously, those Denmark women are easier on the eyes than a 3-D screening of Avatar.

Now I am not going to lie, I have watched about a total of twenty minutes of curling in my lifetime, but from what I have seen, these athletes appear to be normal people. It is a nice contrast from all of those formerly home-schooled kids who threw away their childhood due to the overwhelming pressure from their parents in order to practice a sport 24/7. They are not the extraordinarily wealthy guys who build secret alpine facilities to train. They are simply people you could find on the streets—average men and women, taking on the Olympics, the oldest and most respected challenge that the athletic world has to offer. Therein lies the beauty of curling.

NO

BY STEVEN PRINCIPI, I
STAFF WRITER

Before we dive into the deep and underlying reasons why curling should not be an Olympic sport, we must first ask ourselves: what exactly is a sport? Is it something we watch purely for fun? Is it something that helps us relax and take a break from the real world? In my opinion, the answer is no. There are plenty of entertaining things out there that are not sports, and as any real fan knows, sports are anything but relaxing. So again, what is a sport? Simply put, a sport is something that we watch to be amazed. We watch people do things that we could not fathom attempting. We watch because we want to see the world's best athletes do what they were born to do. Curling is just not like the rest of the Olympic Games.

First off, I am not disputing the entertainment value of curling—the continued struggles of the now infamous John Shuster in the preliminary rounds of the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver were devastating to me, and I remained in the fetal position in my room for four days after his final misstep against Norway. Curling is just as entertaining as any other game in the Olympics, as demonstrated by the continued television broadcast of the event on the USA Network throughout the two weeks of the Olympics.

The reason that curling should be removed as an Olympic sport is simple: there is no real athletic skill on display. Men around the age of 40 are considered in their prime, and the most physically demanding action for the athletes is sweeping violently back and forth in front of a slow-moving rock. The Olympics are supposed to be a gathering of the world's greatest athletes engaged in a two week battle to prove their superiority. Curling is a sport that anyone can play, with proper training. It requires no celerity and little hand-eye coordination, unlike all other major events. It mostly consists of discussions between teammates and little action. Its entertainment value is through the roof, but as long as something like baseball is not in the Olympics, it is impossible to think that something like curling should be.

Secondly, curling is bad for the environment. As the world continues to move closer and closer to becoming green, efforts are being made in almost all aspects of life to cut down on consumption and harming the earth. Sports are no exception. The curling stone is made of an extremely rare type of granite called ailsite. The only place where it grows in abundance is the Ailsa Craig, a small island off the coast of Scotland. However, the Ailsa Craig is now a wildlife reserve and efforts are being made to halt the mining of ailsite from this location and eventually close the quarries forever. These quarries are damaging the natural beauty of Scotland and the process of turning this ailsite into rocks for an extremely low-profile sport is both wasteful and a major source of pollution.

The main reason why curling should not be an Olympic sport is because, unlike all the other events, it is very time-consuming. Curling takes about two or three hours to play out and in that time, not much happens. It is a sluggish game with little action, something that makes it uninteresting to many people. A single end, which is equivalent to an inning in baseball, can take up to ten minutes and the rocks themselves move at a snail's pace.

Curling will only grow on Americans if it begins to match the pace of the four major sports. The game of curling may be a very "entertaining" event to watch, but until it gets faster and more intense, it should stay out of the Games.

Forum Question

Should Curling be an Olympic Sport?



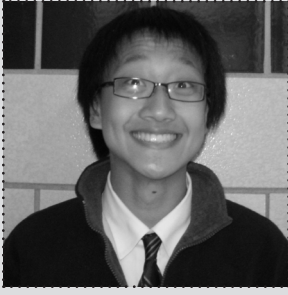
"Yes, because it requires athleticism."
— Gerome Paradela, I



"Yes, people should be able to express their passions through any physical activity."
— Khadeejah Clemons, II



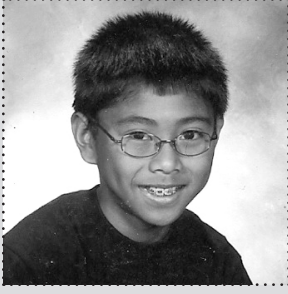
"No, it shouldn't because it's not useful. It has no athleticism to it."
— Olaitan Tayo, III



"Yes, I love curling."
— Will Wen, IV




"No, it shouldn't be considered a sport if it doesn't require any athletic ability."
— Keturah Brewster, V



"No, because it does not require any athleticism."
— Gerald Paradela, VI

Spotlight

Jamie Banks



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By Kathryn Banks, I
& Leigh Bentson, I

Contributing Writers

If you were around school a couple of Mondays ago, you may have seen a crazy guy walking around in a Canadians jersey and a Canadian flag wrapped around his neck. That guy is Jamie Banks. Even though we have the same last name, unfortunately, we are unrelated. Leigh, Jamie and I have been inseparable ever since homeroom in junior year. There is a lot you may think you know about Jamie, but once you enter “Narnia,” everything changes.

Jamie was born and raised in Montreal, Canada, where he wrestled bears to cross the border. He entered Boston Latin School in the seventh grade in Cluster “D,” but eventually intermingled with the rest of us. As he grew older, his Canadian accent grew weak, but he still has those moments where “Sorry, eh?” flows off his tongue. Reigning from Rozzie, he befriended Nick Carter, Max Molinari and Dan Hoff, with whom he is surrounded by all the time. He learned how to play the bass guitar and do an incredible version of Mr. Balicki and Mr. Mulhern, his future twin, while in the States.

He tried out for wrestling in eighth grade and made it onto the team, determined to use the lessons he learned in his homeland. If you attended some of the home matches this year, you would know how intense he gets while watching the Wolfpack take down their opponents. Unfortunately, he tore a ligament this year while practicing and couldn’t compete for weeks, but he made a strong return at the end of the season. It just proves how passionate he is for sports. Outside of school, he also plays lacrosse, Canada’s national sport. I have personally never seen him play, but I’m sure he plays with as much determination as wrestling.

When it comes to his friends, he always has time to hang out or head to the “gally” after school. His “Biff,” Leigh Bentson, are such great “biffs” that they are actually the same person. He was voted “Best Personality” and deserves it. There is never a time where he talks about someone behind their back and he gives great advice whenever someone is in a predicament. He always makes friends, breaking the mold of cliques and status quos.

I am positive that he will continue his caring ways in college, wherever he may end up. I am glad that I met my Canadian brother from another mother, because without him, I would have never embraced my Canadian side: crazy, caring and charismatic. The great times I have spent with him will always be my favorite memories, and I wish him the best in the future without Leigh and I laughing at him for his silly accent and Canadian ways.

So if you ever come across a burly man in the senior hallway wearing those plaid shorts (even in the winter), make sure you say, “Hi,” because he is a great friend to have and a shoulder to lean on, even if you’re shorter than him. Love you, Bro.

SPORTS

Crossing the Finish Line

By Noel Haines, I

Staff Writer

Boston Latin School’s Indoor Track athletes have created a memorable season by pursuing individual goals in order to accomplish team objectives. Despite the lows of the season, it was highlighted by several great races and the formation of a closer-knit team. With a variety of talent ranging from senior veterans to younger runners, this year’s team had enough experience and leadership to stretch out its season, as well as the youth necessary to lay the foundation for successful seasons in the future.

Although the team usually holds practice at the Reggie Lewis Center for about an hour, you may have occasionally seen the sprinters practicing in the basement or the distance runners doing laps around the second floor. The sprinters are guided by senior captains Alexandra Williams and Matt Cronin, while the distance squad is headed by captains Sarah Minahan (I) and Leanna Ehrlich (I), with Nick D’Agostino (II) stepping into a leadership role for the boys.

While the sprinters are loaded with seniors, such as Meisha Brooks (I), Tamika Reid (I) and Chin Chu (I), in addition to their two captains, the distance runners found themselves thin this year. With the loss of Minahan and Ehrlich to marathon training for the majority of the season, a number of juniors were forced to fill larger roles. With this added pressure, those individuals ended up with some of the best performances on the team. Tiffany Fonseca (II) states, “Our MVP is definitely Kathleen Mello (II), who made it to the Massachusetts All-State Championships in the 1000 meter. Second would be Elza Lamberg (II), who had an amazing breakout in the 1000m at the beginning of the season.” Fonseca also had a strong season, finding her greatest success in the 600 meter event. Several runners, including Wilhelmina Moen (III), Tonia Speicher (I) and Brooks, complemented the trio of juniors on competitive relay teams.

A demanding 2009-2010 season has taken a toll on a number of runners. Andre Simpson (II) has battled with health problems and Brooks sustained a fractured arm in All-States. These obstacles, however, have helped to challenge and unify the team, pushing the athletes to improve. “I think we all stepped up to the

plate this season,” says Williams. Simpson ended up with a personal record in the 55m dash at the DCL Championships, while Brooks fought through her injury to help Boston Latin’s 4 by 200m relay to a first place finish.

Despite some disappointing days when the runners felt that they failed to live up to their own goals and expectations, they still looked forward to every meet as an opportunity to help their team. The athletes stress the amount of effort and buildup that goes into every race they run. “A lot of people take track and field for granted and think that we are merely just running in circles,” states Simpson. “But there is much more to it than that; there is a lot of stress and mental preparation in it, especially before a track meet.” The runners prepare themselves and fight through setbacks so that they will be able to offer their best performances to aid the team. Fonseca adds, “Everybody has their own goals, good days and bad days, but in addition, at every meet we are also working together to score the most points for our team. We are really good at cheering our teammates on during their race, and by supporting each other in our races; we are helping the whole team.”

“Crewsing” Along

By David Vysedsky, II
& Luke McKinnon, II

Staff Writers

Boston Latin School’s Girls’ Crew team is so fast that some people accuse them of having motors on their boats. They are a team of vigor and strength. Coach Apperwhite has been known to claim that the girls’ crew team can lift more than the football team. From what we have seen and heard, he is probably correct. Crew is a very demanding sport, and it requires good teamwork and formidable strength. Luckily, there is a great abundance of both skills on our team.

Every time the girls have a competition, they must carry their heavy, long fiberglass boats and long shafted oars. Their record last year was stellar. They qualified for nationals and did not disappoint. The competition was very stiff, but they still put on a great fight. BLS can truly be proud of its crew team. Few other sports teams in our school have shown the same determination and heart that these girls have. They are always running or erging and just doing anything they can to improve.

There are over 90 girls on the crew team. They have significantly improved over the years due to their determination, hard work and their inability to fail. To

those of you who are not familiar with crew, it is a sport and a lifestyle.

When the girls race against local and state teams they aim to demolish the competition. This is shown by the squad’s third place finish in the Northeast Regional Championships. The local schools do not stand a chance at beating our crew team.

They are fortunate enough to have an excellent coach, Gillian Curran. Over the past couple years, she has brought them from an average record to national fame and acclaim. “She really pushes us to our limits, and everyone works off of this competitive attitude,” says Beata Coloyan (I). “I’m sure if she asked us to run marathons and eat thunder or lightning for breakfast in order to win, there would definitely be a lot of us who would



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SENIORS READY TO LEAD THE CHARGE

try.” The girls need to be prepared to row in any type of weather condition: from freezing in the cold water, to getting wet from the heavy rains and to getting burnt by the sun. Except they never need to be prepared to get burnt by the other teams because the other teams do not stand a chance.

Crew was incorporated in the first modern Olympics and is now a sport of widespread popularity. The captains are Coloyan, Caroline Kiritsy (I) and Marcelle Goggins (I). These three individuals are the pillars on which this mighty temple of confidence is built. The team will really miss the seniors when they leave for college this year, where some will continue to row. Kiritsy, for example, has been recruited for Duke University’s Crew Team.

If you have ever been on a Boston Latin sports team, you know then that every team we play crushes us, but the BLS Crew teams make up for all our defeats. They crush the other schools so badly that the other schools go home crying after they see how bad they lost to our girls. On behalf of the student body and the faculty, we wish the crew team a great season and maybe even a national title.

Delaying The Inevitable

By Sanchay Jain, I

Sports Editor

Recently, the National Football League has decided to once again tweak the way the game is played, this time specifically during the playoffs, a period marked by intensity and tension. In the past, if a game was tied at the end of regulation, it would then head into overtime, an extra session where the first team to score any amount of points would win. This would give an advantage (some consider an undue advantage) to the team that wins the simple coin toss at the start of

the “Fifth Quarter” that decides who gets possession of the ball first.

Under the new rules, if the opening drive results in a field goal, the opposition gets the opportunity on offense to attempt to match that field goal to remain in the game. Of course, a touchdown would result in the opposition’s victory. Meanwhile, if the first team scores a touchdown instead of a field goal, the game ends and the second team does not have an opportunity to tie the score. If the two teams have thus traded field goals after these two drives, then overtime resumes its sudden death

nature, and the first team to score any points wins the game.

In one sense, the NFL is attempting to mimic the overtime rules in place for college football, where the team initially on defense has an opportunity to match their opponent’s score. This opportunity, however, remains in place for the entire length of the overtime, and applies for touchdowns as well as field goals. Both of these are rules that the NFL has not yet implemented.

DELAYING THE INEVITABLE

Continued on page 15

SPORTS

Don't Call It A Comeback

BY DEVIN KIRBY, II
STAFF WRITER

“It was painful seeing the puck enter the net,” goalie Gabe Diop (II) recalls of the game-winning goal against Boston Latin School in the heartbreaking loss to Winthrop High School in round two of the Boys’ Hockey State Tournament. “I will probably never be able to erase the horrible image from my mind.” Winthrop scored with a little under 30 seconds left to win the game 2-1. “It was a tough locker room after the game,” says Steve Principi (I), “but we were satisfied with the effort we gave.”

Thus ended one of the best seasons for boys’ hockey since the year of the 2005 State Championship. Yet even in defeat, the boys of the varsity team can hold their heads high. Ending the regular season at 10-6-4, the hockey team enjoyed more regular season wins than the boys’ varsity football, basketball and soccer teams... combined. The squad also consisted of an unprecedented seven Dual County League All-Stars: Mike O’Connell (III), Conal Lynch (III), Kevin Cotrone (III), Brian Mylett (II), Jake Urso (II), Gabe Diop (II) and captain, Justin Evangelista (I). Evange-

lista, Lynch and Cotrone were also some of the DCL’s elite scorers. At the beginning of the season, Diop, only a backup to stalwart Jessie O’Neil (I) stepped up tremendously after O’Neil’s season-ending injury. He then became one of the dominant goalies in the conference, letting up fewer than two goals a game. “He made the job for the defense a hell of a lot easier,” Mylett remarked.

The defense, coupled with the high-octane offense led by the “big three,” Evangelista, Lynch and Cotrone, was the team’s calling card for this stellar season. Mylett, an aggressive defenseman, credits their success to “great team defense,” adding that, “not only the defensemen, but the forwards also did a great job back-checking and blocking shots.” Anchored by Diop and Evangelista, the team combined grit and athleticism to create a defense that even held second-seeded Winthrop to two goals during States, both far from easy scores.

Although this was a great comeback season for the boys, the future looks even brighter. With five of the seven All-Stars returning, the dominant nucleus of the team is still going to be intact next season. Evangelista, a captain and key component of the team’s success, will be missed along

with other seniors Kevin McDonough, Jesse Byrne and Principi, but the team looks forward to another State Championship run. Lynch, who has already had one year of captain’s experience during sophomore year, will be joined by Urso and Mylett as captains next year.

The expectations will be high, but the team believes that they will surpass them and retake their role as one of the dominant programs at BLS. This shift has already started this season, evident by the huge turnout at the final game. “I went to one of the games in the middle of the season, and there was only a handful of kids and some parents there,” explains Armando Carlo-Gonzalez (II), the hockey team’s self-proclaimed “number-one” fan. Contrast this to the packed fan bus, which ended up having a waiting list for seats. The bus showed up to Salem State’s rink to support the team and more than 100 fans, faculty and parents, who were also present at the game. “It was a great turnout,” Diop says.

“We had a very successful year, and look to build off that for next year,” Mylett concludes. Diop simply states, with his signature smirk, “We’ll be back next year.” One would certainly hope so.

DELAYING THE INEVITABLE

Continued from page 14

What does the rule change do to the games? One could argue that it adds a little bit more intensity to the game. For example, when a kicker has to march onto the field to kick a 50 yard field goal to match an opponent’s three point score. In such an occasion, if the kicker is unsuccessful, the team can no longer blame the unlucky flip of a coin on the outcome of the game.

If you think about it, however, the new rule actually adds nothing to professional football. Back when overtime was entirely sudden death, there was still pressure on a kicker to deliver the game-winning field goal in the clutch. Some of that pressure has now been removed due to the fact that this game-winning field goal might not be the pivotal moment of the game anymore. To those who complain that overtime is heavily dependent on a coin toss, if the winner of the coin toss scores a fluke touchdown

on their opening drive, the game is still over. If the two teams trade field goals, the first team’s second field goal still decides the game, with the opponent never getting an opportunity to match it.

Ultimately, football is a sport filled with 60 minutes of mental and physical endurance. If the game cannot be decided within that timeframe, there must be a fitting conclusion, and there is simply no better conclusion than an extra period decided by sudden death. It is the defense’s responsibility to stop the first team from getting into field goal range just as much as it is the offense’s



NFL SEEKS TO ELIMINATE FLUKE WINS

responsibility to give their kicker an easy field goal opportunity. Let the defense do their job. With the new rule change, the NFL seems to be allowing that, and yet it is elongating the game unnecessarily in the spirit of “fairness.” This rule change, simply put, will be a bust of Ryan Leaf proportions.

Insanity as Always

BY COLIN MURPHY, III
STAFF WRITER

In 1939, University of Kansas coach Phog Allen proposed the idea of a post-season tournament to determine the best team in the nation. In the first ever National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament, there were eight teams. The University of Oregon defeated Ohio State 46-33 in the final game. By 1985, the tournament became the premier competition for college basketball, and 64 teams began to participate. Over time, the tournament became increasingly popular, and CBS began picking up the games for national television broadcasts. Legendary CBS broadcaster Brent Musburger began using the term “March Madness” during broadcasts, and the name has stuck with this unbelievable tournament.

Phog Allen never knew that his idea would eventually become the greatest postseason fixture in all of sports. The NCAA tournament is formatted with 65 teams overall, 34 of which are automatic bids—the respective winners of each postseason conference tournament. Then

there are 31 at-large bids, usually from the six biggest conferences in Division I. The tournament is broken into four different regions with sixteen teams in each region, including one play-in game. One might look at a bracket and see a power-

house, such as Georgetown, playing puny Ohio and automatically assume that the former will demolish the latter. But the special thing about “March Madness” is that everyone has a fair chance to win. On any given day, David can take down Goliath.

Over the years, the greatest moments in college basketball history have happened during “March Madness.” This tournament is more than just a few games thrown together; this is a chance for no-name schools to make Cinderella proud.



MARCH MADNESS: WHERE MIRACLES COME TRUE

Great moments such as George Mason, an eleventh seed from the Colonial Athletic Association, making a run to the Final Four in 2006 is only one example of the magic that is produced every March. The late legendary coach Jim Valvano, who

died of cancer in 1993, is the poster child for how great and emotional “March Madness” can be. In 1983, he led his North Carolina State team against insurmountable odds to an amazing national championship run. After the victory, Jimmy V, as he is known in the college basketball world, just ran aimlessly around the court looking for someone to hug.

INSANITY AS ALWAYS
Continued on page 16

Spotlight

Marcelle Goggins



BY MICHAELA HUGHES, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Marcelle Goggins goes by various nicknames: Marcey, Marcelley, Marcel-lular Device, Goggles and Googenheim. But from the moment I met her, Marcelle Marceau (the Mime, of course) has never ceased to surprise me. From her dangerously short pixie cut in the first grade to her neon yellow racing hat, Marcelle has always been and will be a dedicated individual—whether it is in academics, sports, or friendship.

Since elementary school, Marcelle has always taken her grades seriously, working hard towards her academic goals. I have known Marcelle basically since the beginning of our educational career and, while we both have had some “interesting” teachers along the way, Marcelle has always had a way of working around their “quirks”. Whether it’s a moldy old nun, a Latin teacher with a squirrel fetish, or a downright insane French teacher, Marcelle overcame their eccentricities and succeeded in all of her courses...especially French.

In addition to her academic excellence, Marcelle is a fantastic athlete. Our many playdates and sleepovers throughout elementary school always seemed to end with me sitting through one of her soccer games, and then awkwardly going to Doyle’s for pizza afterwards. But I didn’t mind watching the soccer star strut her stuff on the field, from JP Soccer to BLS Soccer, because I got to see a true champ at work and meet many lovely soccer moms in the process. Her true athletic ability lies in the cult of BLS: the crew team. After joining the Varsity Crew team in seventh grade, she proved to be a great addition, helping in many victories, providing an enthusiastic and passionate attitude, and aiding in the many fundraising efforts. Marcelle was the one who inspired me to join the crew team and it is no surprise that her various contributions have gotten her to the position as co-captain with fellow seniors Caroline Kiritsy (I) and Beata Coloyan (I). With all her hard work and dedication to the sport, I’m positive that Marcelle will help lead us towards an amazing crew season in 2010.

As a supplement to all her jaw dropping abilities, Marcelle is an awesome friend who is always willing to take the time out of her busy life just to talk to you. I know from personal experience that she always seems to have an answer to any dilemma and is chock full of advice. She knows when something is bothering you and knows just how to make you feel better. Whether it’s with a witty pun, an extremely sarcastic statement, or just great guidance, she is there.

Marcelle is extremely ambitious and has worked hard for all of her achievements. And even though grades, honors, trophies, etc. matter a lot, what matters most is who you are as a person, and I can guarantee you that from our 12-year friendship that Marcey is the best of the best.



Teachers Topple Students...Again

By **MICHAEL TOMASINI, II**
STAFF WRITER

Despite the best efforts from all-stars Matt “White Lightning” Duhaime (II), Sanchay “Dark Chocolate” Jain (I) and Eli “Baby Swiss” Hoffman (I), among other notable contributors, the Boston Latin School students fell again to their accursed rivals, the teachers, in the annual Student Faculty basketball game. Friday, March 12, was not a good day for the students, who were left embarrassed by opponents many years past their prime. “It was tough keeping up with their intensity,” whined Devin Kirby (II), attempting to fashion a reasonable excuse for why the students were soundly and significantly pummeled by their professors. The final score has been debated

from both sides, possibly due to the fact that “Gio had the game fixed.” Eli Hoffman, class treasurer and supposed numerical whiz, however, had the final

she shot and Ms. Long was “MVP” according to observers Ali Ghorbi (I) and player Jackie McDonagh (II) respectively. Tosin Ajewole (II) was the “only

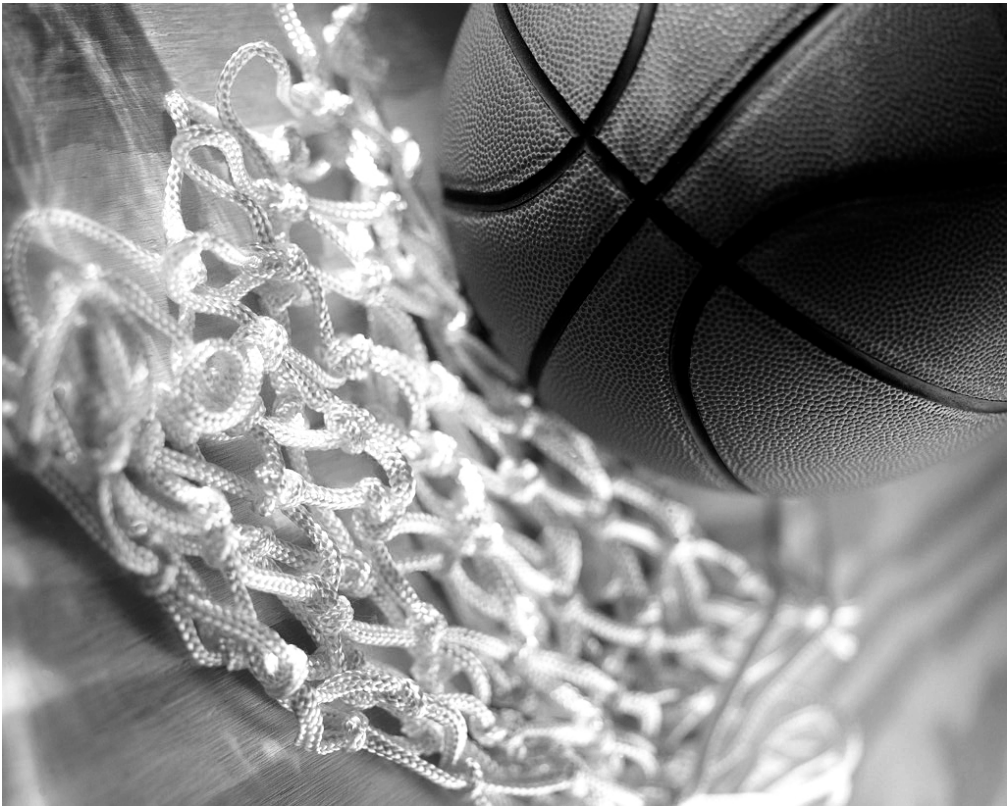
person who kept the team in the game,” said Ali G, but even Tosin’s performance (including his highlight play against Kevin Bernazzani) and the performances of other veterans on the varsity basketball team could not stand up to the faculty’s relentless defense, overwhelming physical play and combined experience.

It was certainly an opportunity for personal feuds to be played out

on the court and for some classic drama to unfold. Coach Bernazzani “looked like he was playing pretty dirty” from a source that wishes to remain anonymous.

It is likely that Sean Mycroft (II) would agree. Mr. D.C. threw a few elbows. Coach Smith was “intense,” doing his best to keep his players beneath him, both on the scoreboard and on the court. Coach “T-Money” McQuade lived up to the hype that he produced the morning of the game on BLS TV by playing in-your-face D and draining key free throws in the second half. Those key free throws were “inspired by Georgia Tech’s stellar performance in March Madness,” a revelation that was just one tiny part of my behind-the-scenes interview with McQuade.

Yet the most important thing was that everyone who was involved in the game had a great time; the faculty, students and spectators genuinely enjoyed watching the drama unfold. As Eli said, “It was fun to beast on teachers, like D.C., Smith, and Ms. Long. Being a senior, I knew it was the last time I’d get to do this, and I have no regrets. I came to play. We all did. It’s too bad we didn’t get the result we were looking for, but I like the chances of next year’s students’ team.” Jackie McDonagh (II), on the other hand, simply “had a ton of fun!” Others involved echoed that sentiment. We will have to wait until next year to see whether the students can finally crack the basketball juggernaut that is the Boston Latin School Faculty, but one thing is for certain: you won’t want to miss it.



STUDENTS CAN'T CATCH A BREAK

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INSANITY AS ALWAYS
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This year, the term “March Madness” has been a very fitting title to the tournament, with lower seeds constantly upsetting the favorites and turning the tournament upside down. It started with

score pegged at 51-41. Though the students did their best, in reality it was a one-sided show. Ms. Wenz “drained anything and everything”

the first game of the day with fifteenth-seeded Robert Morris almost knocking off second-seeded Villanova. This was not an upset but it set the tone that this tournament was going to be more than exciting. Then, Murray State’s Danero Thomas led the thirteenth-seeded Racers with an amazing game-winning shot

at the buzzer over fourth-seeded Vanderbilt just a few hours later. And to cap off a crazy first day, fourteenth-seeded Ohio ran third-seeded Georgetown out of the gym, 97-83. The second day did not disappoint either as it seemed every single game went down to the wire, especially when John Leur’s baseline jump

shot, with 20 seconds left, lifted Wisconsin over Wofford. The tournament seems to get more unpredictable every year. Whether it is an improbable run such as eighth-seeded Davidson to the Elite Eight in 2008 or Cornell and their amazing run this year, every game is an emotional roller coaster.

Celtics Struggle Along

By **ELI HOFFMAN, I**
STAFF WRITER

As the National Basketball Association’s regular season begins to wind down, little is yet to be determined for the playoffs. It has been an interesting year, characterized by yet another MVP-worthy season from LeBron James, the emergence of Kevin Durant and a young Oklahoma City Thunder team, and perhaps the greatest exercise in futility in NBA history from a pathetic New Jersey Nets team.

The only real competition for a playoff spot is between the Chicago Bulls and the Toronto Raptors for the eighth and final seed in the Eastern Conference. The Bulls, however, are quickly fading, having lost eight straight games as of March 17, undoubtedly due to the loss of star point guard, Derrick Rose. The Raptors themselves have lost five straight games, and whoever gets this final seed is irrelevant because LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers will most likely annihilate any team below the fourth seed.

That seed will probably be either our beloved Boston Celtics or the Atlanta Hawks. The Celtics could face the Milwaukee Bucks, Charlotte Bobcats or Miami Heat in the first round. The Celts

have had their troubles with a solid, young Bucks team this year that is getting hot at just the right time. Their struggles against the Bobcats the last few years have been well-documented. Nobody, however, wants to face Dwyane Wade in a playoff series. Who then, Celtics fans may ask, should the Celts face in the first round? The answer is the Charlotte Bobcats. Despite the Celtics’ troubles with them in recent history, the Bobcats have been awful on the road, and the Celtics have easily disposed of them in a blowout win on March 3.

No one knows what to expect from this Celtics team, which has been an enigma all year. On Christmas day, the team held a 23-5 record and seemed destined for at least another Eastern Conference Finals appearance, if not NBA finals. Since their win over the Orlando Magic, the Celtics

has continued on a very average record of 20-19. Just as they start to come around, they become terrible again. After winning three straight games in February against the Sacramento Kings, the Kobe-less Los Angeles Lakers and the proficient

team and have struggled mightily against the league’s elite. The Nate Robinson-for-Eddie House trade has undoubtedly helped the bench along with the addition of Michael Finley. Robinson brings a ton of energy off the bench as a versatile scorer,

unlike Eddie House, who was useless when he was off from three-point range. This Celtics team is on its last legs, and each of the Big Three’s contracts will expire in successive years, starting with Ray Allen this summer. The window is closing, and they have only fifteen more games to shape up. As good as this team has been on the road, combined with their troubles at home, home-court advantage would probably not be coveted beyond the first round. This year’s team cannot at all compare with that of 2007-08, and anywhere beyond the first round would be a pleasant surprise. But as Kevin Garnett so famously shouted, “Anything is possible!”



YOU KNOW HE WAS BORN TO BE IN GREEN

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Portland Trail Blazers, all on the road, and seemed as though they had finally hit their stride... the Denver Nuggets manhandled them. They have lost to the league’s worst